

AUSTRALIAN HANDYMAN AUGUST 2015 • RAISED VEGIE BED • PALLET FURNITURE • EXTERIOR PAINT • FIREPLACE UPDATE • SAFETY GEAR • DWARF FRUIT TREES • WINTER LAWN • PRUNING

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL GIFTS, SHEDS & PROJECTS

AUSTRALIAN

# Handyman

BUILD THIS  
**RAISED  
VEGIE  
BED**

FOR YOUR  
BEST-EVER  
CROPS

**GROW**  
FRUIT TREES IN  
SMALL SPACES

**INSTALL**  
A PERGOLA FOR  
OUTDOOR LIVING

**WIN**  
POWER TOOLS  
WORTH \$550

*design*



**Make**  
pallet furniture



**Cook**  
a winter feast



**Update**  
the fireplace



**Paint**  
the exterior

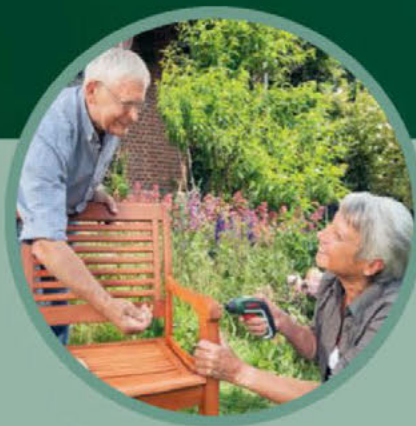
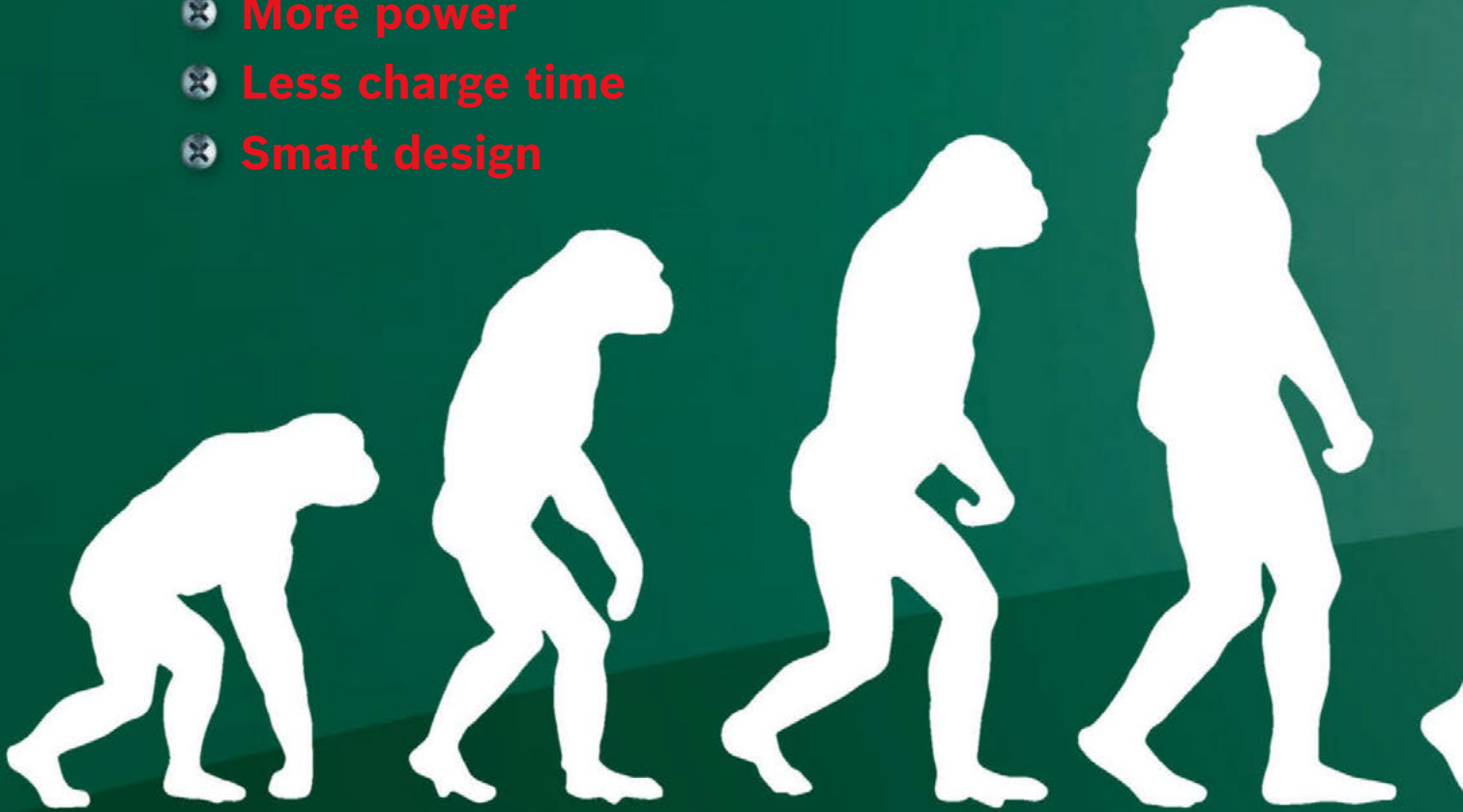




# More than just a

## The new IXO

- ⊗ More power
- ⊗ Less charge time
- ⊗ Smart design



Check out the Bosch website: [www.bosch-do-it.com.au](http://www.bosch-do-it.com.au)



# screw driver.



# IXO

## The next step of evolution in 2015.

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**BOSCH**  
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY  
ADAM WOODHAMS

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to *Handyman* p65

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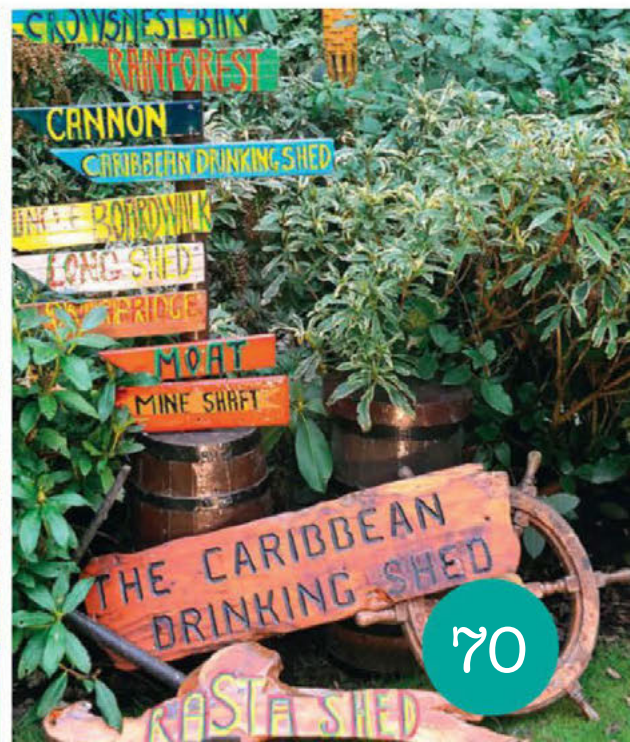


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**GET THE  
LOOK**

## LOVE THE COVER?

To get a lush designer garden planter, team stained timber with leafy greens

STYLING AND PICTURE ADAM WOODHAMS



Mr Yorky models for Handyman regularly.

**B**uild a bed using pre-stained timber for a landscape element combining form with function.

To make the most of a raised bed, add a seat with a cushion on one side to make it comfortable while you work.

Leafy greens like kale and herbs, fruit such as strawberries, and veggies like cauliflower, are easy to grow at home and look lush and pretty.



Alpine Strawberry  
95mm Plant, \$4.  
[bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)



Freedom 50 x 50cm  
Cushions, from \$20 each.  
[freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au)



Earthwise Growing Essentials  
Lucerne Mulch, \$20.  
[australianprimefibre.com](http://australianprimefibre.com)



Johnsons World Kitchen Nero  
Di Toscana Kale Seeds, \$5.  
[johnsons-seeds.com.au](http://johnsons-seeds.com.au)



Ironwood 200 x 50mm x 3m  
Sienna Sleepers, \$19 each.  
[chhwoodproducts.com.au](http://chhwoodproducts.com.au)



Floriana Cut & Cook 200mm  
Assorted Herbs, \$14 each.  
[floriana.com.au](http://floriana.com.au)





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DECO 4S

# MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

## THE DECO COLLECTION

*The Deco Collection uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. When Georgia Ezra, of G.A.B.B.E Interior Design, is tasked with creating a stylish, modern room, she starts with Corinthian. For some design inspiration, watch Georgia style this room at [Corinthian.com.au](http://Corinthian.com.au)*

*"First impressions start at the entrance to a room, so let the door lead your interior design."*

GEORGIA EZRA, G.A.B.B.E INTERIOR DESIGN



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how to video  
and painting tips



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## THIS ISSUE



### PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

The door of a room is the first thing you see, so there's no better place to make a good impression.

Influenced by the international Art Deco design movement, the Deco Collection by Corinthian Doors uses clean lines and geometry, and is available in 15 styles and a range of sizes.

Installation is easy, as the collection is compatible with the Corinthian Pre-hung Door System ([corinthian.com.au](http://corinthian.com.au)).



## EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the Father's Day issue of *Handyman*, where project editor and dad Adam Woodhams and daughter Amber star on the cover, admiring the raised garden bed Adam built, on page 20.

There are lots of great ideas for gifts for any DIY dad that will make him feel special, on page 13. And blogger Melissa Darr creates a picture-perfect gift for under \$10, on page 76.

Triple threat, actor, dancer and TV presenter Paul Mercurio shares recipes from his new cookbook, *Kitchen Mojo*, on page 78. The cooking bit must make him a quadruple threat!

### Handyman's new website

Have you had a chance to check out our new website, [handyman.net.au](http://handyman.net.au)?

Like the magazine redesign, which we undertook to present projects in a more interactive way, the website is packed with projects, articles, tips, competitions, blogs, videos and more.

We're uploading more every day, so save us as one of your bookmarks.

### Social media growth

We've also amped up our presence on social media to bring you our latest news, ideas, inspiration and ways to connect with us. Check us out here.

+ **FACEBOOK** to find out about special offers, handy tips and great ideas.

+ **PINTEREST** to get inspired and to create your own boards.

+ **INSTAGRAM** for beautiful images.

+ **GOOGLE+** to keep you in the loop.

+ **TWITTER** to get a snapshot of what's new in the world of DIY.

+ **YOUTUBE** for how to improve your home with step-by-step videos.

+ **HOUZZ** for even more inspiration.

See page 10 for more information and addresses, or click through from the *Handyman* website.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR  
LEE DASHIELL

### + GREAT IDEA

After a clever solution to add storage space in your kitchen? Just look in the bathroom section at Bunnings.

The Everloc Solutions Bathroom Shelf Round, \$29 ([everloc.com.au](http://everloc.com.au)) makes an excellent rack for holding spices, candles or even herbs.

It's held up by a unique suction system so installation is easy and there's no damage to surfaces.



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Stainless Steel Shelf With  
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with DIY videos and  
design ideas using  
mouldings.



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2

PFP-2819



3

GCR-6625



4

COA-13818



5

QD-18

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BEFORE



AFTER



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## HANDY STUFF



\$59

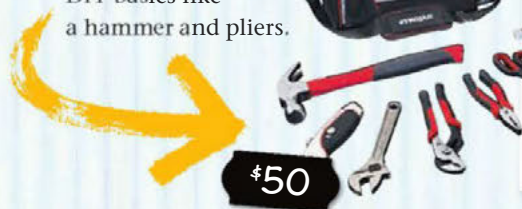
### DIY deli

Up Dad's sandwich game with the flavour punch of fresh cold cuts using a Kogan Electric Deli Meat & Food Slicer. It's easy to use and features a knife guard for safety.

[kogan.com.au](http://kogan.com.au)

### Handy haul

Upgrade Dad's old and tired toolbox that's tucked away in the garage with the Trojan 47-piece Tool Kit with Tool Bag, from Bunnings. It includes all the DIY basics like a hammer and pliers.



\$50

### Cut the curve

Dad will love the compound lever action of the non-slip, serrated steel jaws of the Wiss Edge Left Cut Aviation Tinsnip to cut sheet metal.

[apextoolgroup.com.au](http://apextoolgroup.com.au)



\$30

# FATHER'S DAY GIFT GUIDE

Choose the best gift for your dad with these ideas to suit every budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Check out the tasty recipes for Dad, on page 78.

### Pistol power

Help your handy dad finish the job faster with a Stanley FatMax Ratcheting Pistol Grip Screwdriver, ([stanleytools.com.au](http://stanleytools.com.au)). It features a large soft-grip handle for added comfort and has integrated bit storage.



\$30

### Smokin' hot

Keep the barbecue king in your family safe from hot fat spatter with the cheeky Sexy Man Apron. > [yellowoctopus.com.au](http://yellowoctopus.com.au)



\$30





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**Slotted Steel**  
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**Pre Cut Sheet & Treadplate**  
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bracket needs**  
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Buy a gift that means you and your dad get to spend time together doing something he loves.



## Tinker tunes

Turn on music anytime, anywhere using the robust Bosch PRA MultiPower Radio. Three handles and a lightweight design make moving it easy. It has Bluetooth connectivity and a smartphone dry storage compartment.

**bosch-do-it.com.au**



## Cutting edge

Does your dad design his garden like a Monet masterpiece? Help him hone his craft with an Ozito Power X Change 18V Line Trimmer Kit, ([ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)). Complete with a battery, charger and blades in the kit, the cordless design will give him greater flexibility and range.

## Garden gadget

Make Dad's day by installing a Gardena EasyControl Water Computer. His green thumb will tingle with the thrill of programming in an irrigation plan for the yard.

gardena.com.au



## Charge it

Save your eco-savvy father from running out of battery power with an XD Design Sol Travel Charger, ([optocoonline.com](http://optocoonline.com)). Just pop it open in a bright spot and leave it to charge a device via a USB adaptor.



## Heart art

Treat your dad to a special piece of personalised artwork for his wall with a 300 x 460mm Modernista Father's Day Canvas Art. >  
beyondaword.com.au



To create your own word art, turn to page 76.





\$350

## Workout watch

Support Dad's fitness goals by setting him up with a Fitbit Surge. He'll be able to maximise his workout by tracking his heart rate and sleep. The watch also syncs to his phone for music, plus call and text notification.

[fitbit.com/au](http://fitbit.com/au)

Let Dad track how far you've cycled together for fun.



\$399

## All in one

Let your father go wild in the workshop with a whole new power tool collection by giving him the Ryobi 18V One+ Five-piece Kit ([ryobi.com.au](http://ryobi.com.au)). It includes a drill driver, impact driver, circular saw, sander, torch, charger, two One+ batteries and a handy carry bag.

## Motor mate

Keep a record of off-road trips with a Uniden iGo Cam 750. It has speed and red light camera warnings, plus lane assist alerts.

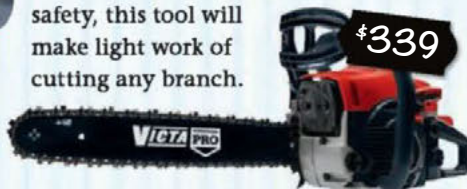
[uniden.com.au](http://uniden.com.au)



\$180

## Tree lopper

Get the job done well using the Victa Pro 18" Chainsaw ([victa.com.au](http://victa.com.au)). With a 45cc soft-start, two-stroke engine, inertia-activated chain brake and anti-vibration system for added safety, this tool will make light work of cutting any branch.



\$339

## Backyard brew

Make a coffee aficionado's day with a Handpresso Wild Hybrid Outdoor Espresso Maker Set.

The compact machine works with pods or ground coffee and comes with a flask and four unbreakable cups. ●

[thedesigngiftshop.com.au](http://thedesigngiftshop.com.au)



\$299



# Make Dad A Tradie This Fathers Day!



The new range of Kincrome soft storage tool bags are ideal from the worksite to the home.

A great gift idea for Dad this Fathers Day!



**Bucket Bag (300mm)**  
Heavy Duty • 54 Pockets & loops  
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• For use with 20L buckets.  
**Part No. K7423**

Bucket Not Included



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**Part No. K7421**



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**Mobile Utility Bag (700mm)**  
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## BUYER'S GUIDE

# DIY KNIVES

### Score board

With a comfortable timber handle and tungsten-tipped blade, the Haron Score and Snap Knife, \$18, makes scoring fibre cement sheets, tiles and laminate simple ([haron.com.au/hardware](http://haron.com.au/hardware)).

### Go steady

The rust-resistant Stanley FatMax 18mm Snap Off Knife, \$15, has a thumb dial that clamps down for added control, a rubber grip and a removable blade snapper ([stanleytools.com.au](http://stanleytools.com.au)).

### Frame up

Tackle tough old putty on window frames with the Trojan 200mm Hacking Knife, \$15. It features an ergonomic soft-grip handle and a stainless steel blade ([trojantools.com.au](http://trojantools.com.au)).





Slice easily through any material from fibre cement sheets to tiles and carpet by picking the right blade

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURE STUART SCOTT

### Precise point

Slice it right the first time with the Crafright Scalpel Knife, \$2. An aluminium blade is ideal for cutting fine details and three extra blades are included ([bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)).

### Sheet slicer

Prepare linoleum, veneer panelling, timber and other sheet materials with the Trojan Curved Linoleum Knife, \$10. A soft-grip handle aids control ([trojantools.com.au](http://trojantools.com.au)).

### Flip 'n' slit

The heavy-duty and compact Kincrome 150mm Folding Lock Back Utility Knife, \$14, comes with a belt pouch for easy transportation, as well as 10 spare blades ([kincrome.com.au](http://kincrome.com.au)).

### Carpet cutter

A cleverly designed finger notch ensures the Irwin Fixed Carpet Knife, \$17, will give you more leverage when cutting carpet. It also includes five extra blades ([irwin.com.au](http://irwin.com.au)).





# TIMBER PLANTER

Make this raised bed to grow delicious organic vegies and herbs in any yard

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAM

Growing fresh food is on the garden wish list for most of us but the problem can be finding the right place to set up your patch.

You may not have the space for a large bed or the soil in your yard may be poor. The solution to any site issues is to install a raised bed.

This planter is built as a box using timber sleepers and features two beds of different heights. ➤

## OFFSET THE POSTS

The posts for this planter are on the inside and spaced to allow for the side panels.

As the planter has two beds of different heights but equal size, the centre post is offset and biased towards the high end.

The edge facing the base bed is 1450mm from the high end when using 3m sleepers as the front and rear panels.

To allow for the side panels, the end posts need to be offset 50mm towards the centre.

## SAFETY TIP

CCA treated pine is preserved with arsenic and can leach toxins so use Microshades or ACQ sleepers instead.





**TOOLS**  
MITRESAW,  
BRAD NAILER

**1  
DAY**

**\$892  
COST**

## After

The new raised planter turns an empty bed into a productive patch of garden.

### Materials

Microshades 200mm sleepers	\$496
6 bags Sika Post Fix	\$162
Buildex Timber	
Construction Screws	\$47
ACQ safe screws or nails	\$9
H3 treated pine	\$15
Treated pine decking	\$15
Drainage matting	\$43
Soil	\$100
Construction adhesive	\$5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$892</b>

A bench seat provides a handy place to sit or kneel while gardening.





Run a block plane along the sleepers to add a professional bevelled edge.

### How to make it

This planter was built using 3m Microshades Sienna treated pine sleepers, which are safe for use where food is to be grown.

We used 200 x 75mm sleepers for the posts and 200 x 50mm to make the box frame, which measures 3m long by just over 1m wide.

The box frame is built with internal posts and divided in the centre to create two beds with a height difference of one sleeper.

Horizontal sleeper rails are attached 350mm below the top lip along the front and back of the box.

Base panels 50mm thick are laid on the rails to create the two 300mm deep planting beds.

We added a 300mm deep bench seat to the side of the base bed. ➤

Watch Adam build this planter  
Visit [handyman.net.au/vegie-garden](http://handyman.net.au/vegie-garden)

## ADAM'S PICKS



Floriana Cut & Cook Range,  
\$14 each. [floriana.com.au](http://floriana.com.au)



Sika Post Fix, \$27 for  
979ml. [aus.sika.com](http://aus.sika.com)

## SINK POSTS SUPER FAST

Save money and time by using Post Fix to stabilise posts. A new construction-grade expanding foam product from Sika, it is for use in non-structural situations.

A 1kg bag does the job of 2-3 20kg bags of concrete. It sets in a few minutes, is cured in about two hours and won't leach any chemicals or effect the soil's pH.

Any excess foam can be easily cut away with a handsaw.




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FSA/TECH0422

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With Tool Blox, the clever new storage system from Ryobi, you can assemble new units as the need arises. The units lock together to create a modular system and you can even add wheels to make Tool Blox mobile.



# BUILD THE BOX AND SEAT



## 1 Sink the centre post

Mark out the site of the raised bed in the garden using set-out paint, then run a stringline to measure and mark the location of the front centre post. Dig a 400mm deep hole and position the post, securing with Sika Post Fix. Leave to set for two hours.

**TIP** Quickset concrete can also be used.



## 2 Position the front posts

To ensure the faces of the front posts are perfectly aligned, attach a spirit level or straightedge to the centre post using clamps. Use it to get the position and angle of the remaining two front posts, then dig the holes and sink the posts using Sika Post Fix or quickset concrete.



## 3 Add the back posts

Position two front panels and check for level, securing with screws through the posts. Clamp the end panels in position and check for square, to mark the rear post locations. Dig each hole and position the posts, checking for level. Sink the posts, then secure the end panels with screws.



## 4 Attach the rear panels

Secure the remaining front panels and rear panels, checking for level. Attach the remaining base bed end panels. Mark a level line inside the box front and rear 350mm from the top. Position the support rails on the marked lines, securing with screws. Attach the post blocks with screws.



## 5 Secure the base panels

Position the base panels on the support rails with 5mm gaps in between, securing with screws. Secure the centre panels to the centre posts. Attach the remaining base panels and top bed end panels. Line the beds with drainage fabric, securing with staples.

**TIP** Cut the base panels to fit the ends.



## 6 Install the bench rail

Mark the position on the front panels of the finished bench height and the rail 70mm below, to allow for the seat and cladding. Countersink and pre-drill three holes in the bench rail. Apply construction adhesive to the back, position against the marked line and check for level, securing with screws.





### 7 Make the bench seat

Clamp the three seat panels together, ensuring that the ends are flush. Cut a 45° bevel on one end of each cleat, then countersink and pre-drill at least three holes. Apply construction adhesive to the cleat backs, then position flush with the seat back and sides, securing with screws.



### 9 Clad the seat

Trim the seat front and sides with decking, securing the butt joints with adhesive and screws or nails. Clad the top, allowing a 10mm overhang on the front and ends, ripping down one length of decking to fit, if needed. Apply adhesive to the seat and secure the cladding with screws or nails.



### 8 Attach the seat

Apply a bead of construction adhesive along the top of the bench rail, then position the seat on the rail. Pre-drill holes through the seat into the bench rail, securing with screws.

**TIP** You can also pre-drill into the front panels of the planter box to skew-screw the bench seat to secure.



### 10 Add the brackets

Measure 180mm along the cleats from the rear, then 45° down the wall under the seat to mark the positions for the bench support brackets. Cut a 45° mitre on the bracket ends, countersink and pre-drill, then secure with adhesive and screws. Apply 1-2 coats of decking oil to the planter box and bench seat. ➔

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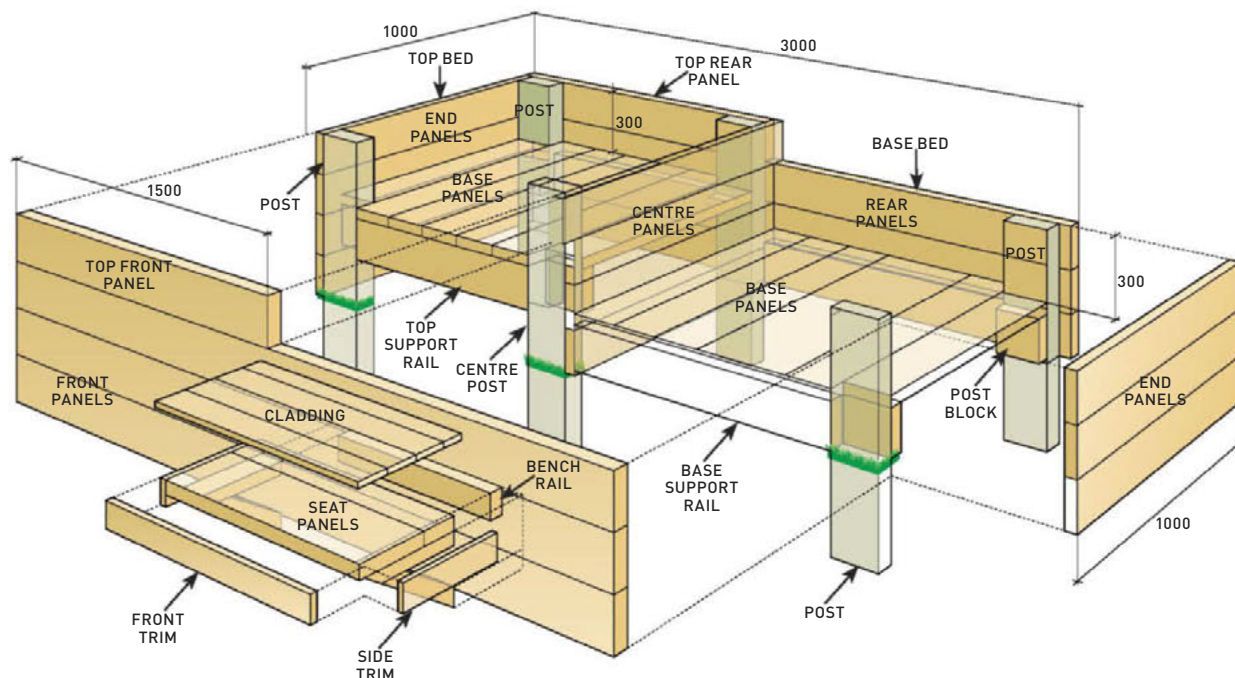
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# PLANTER BOX AND BENCH SEAT

measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
<b>Sleepers</b>		
Base bed posts	1200 x 200 x 75	2
Centre and top bed posts	1400 x 200 x 75	4
Post blocks	200 x 200 x 50	6
Front and rear panels	3000 x 200 x 50	8
	1500 x 200 x 50	2
End panels	1000 x 200 x 50	9
Centre panels	1000 x 200 x 50	3
	1100 x 200 x 50	1
Base bed base panels	1000 x 200 x 50	5
	1000 x 125 x 50	1
	850 x 200 x 50	1

Top bed base panels	1000 x 200 x 50	5
	850 x 200 x 50	1
	850 x 200 x 50	1
Support rails	1050 x 200 x 50	2
	1200 x 200 x 50	2
Seat panels	940 x 100 x 50	3

## H3 treated pine

Bench rail	800 x 90 x 45	1
Cleats	270 x 90 x 45	2
Bench brackets	300 x 90 x 45	2

## Treated pine decking

Seat cladding	960 x 90 x 22	4
Seat trim	300 x 90 x 22	2
	984 x 90 x 22	1

## FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
125mm timber screws	Box butt joints, seat
100mm timber screws	Panels, support rails
40mm ACQ safe screws or nails	Seat cladding, trim



# SOFTWOODS *DIY Kits*

Softwoods offer two great products through Bunnings Special Orders to make building an outdoor entertaining area a much simpler exercise.

Our solutions make DIY easier and take no shortcuts in giving you a solid structure built to last.

## Merbau Modular Decking Kits

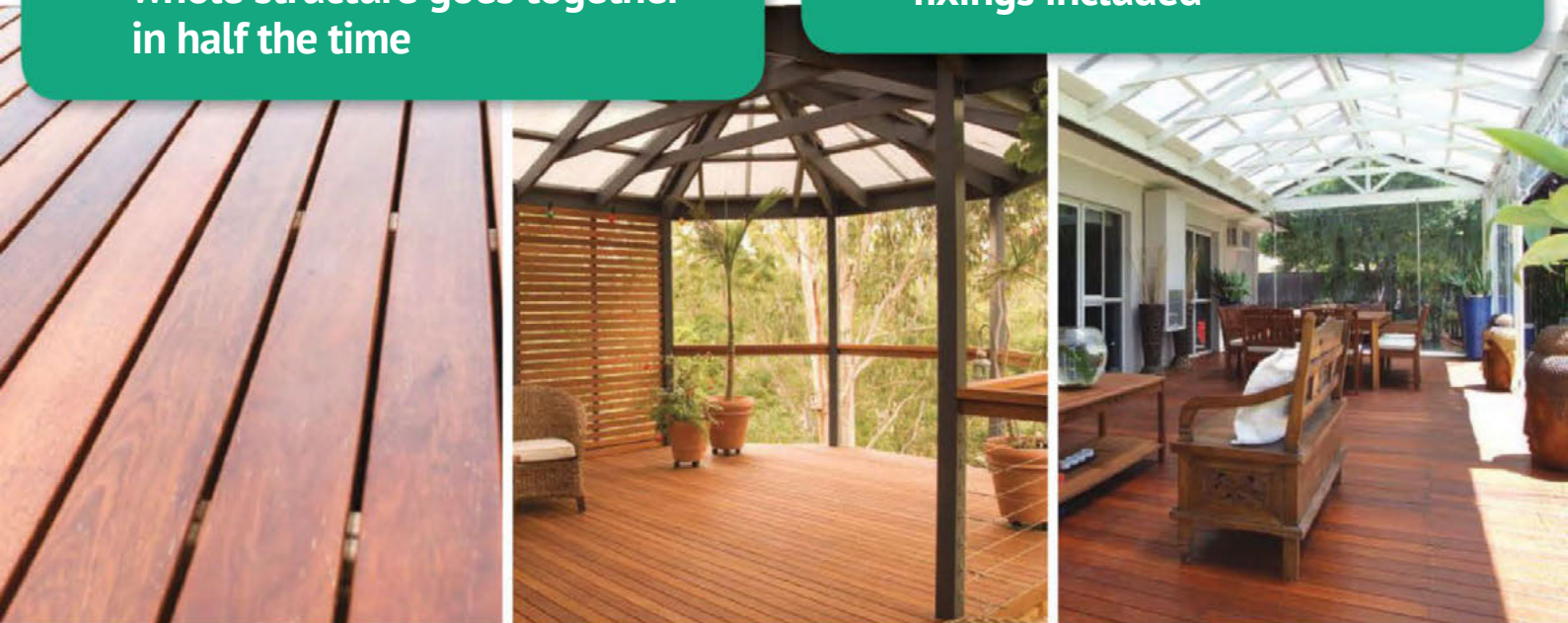
Featuring:

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- Decking boards fixed in sets, whole structure goes together in half the time

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[www.SOFTWOODS.com.au](http://www.SOFTWOODS.com.au)

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[bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)



# PERFECT PERGOLAS

Build an open-air room in the backyard for outdoor living when the weather warms up


**T**he easiest way to create an extra space for relaxing or socialising outdoors is to install a backyard pergola.

And if you build it DIY from timber, it's a cost-effective way to add value to your home.

Choose a location depending on the function of the pergola.

For resort-style living, place it poolside. If it's an entertaining space, site it near the barbecue.

As a garden retreat, put it in the lawn and grow deciduous climbers over it for summer shade and winter sun. ➤



Installing a timber pergola DIY is an affordable landscape upgrade.



## SAFETY TIP

Use ACQ over CCA treated pine for outdoor structures. It's often sold as 'safe pine' and is arsenic-free.



Invest in furniture that's designed for outdoor use to enjoy a pergola year-round





## Screen the pergola

Add a trellis and hang planters over the slats to give the pergola a green wall without growing plants over it.

Measure between the posts to cut 90 x 22mm treated pine decking boards, about \$3 a metre, to length.

Build the trellis on the pergola floor, positioning 12 slats on a centre support with 50mm gaps, securing with two screws for each slat. Add the side rails, then the top rail.

Stand up the trellis and attach to the posts with screws, then apply the same timber stain used on the pergola.

To make the planter boxes, cut cedar panels to size. These boxes are about 600mm long and can hold 200mm plastic pots.

Position the sides against the base, then the front and back against the sides, securing all the butt joints with adhesive and galvanised nails. Attach a hanger cut to fit over the slats.

**TIP** You will still need to drill drainage holes in the planter bases. ➤

For more privacy and greenery, add a trellis and planters around two or three sides of the pergola.

## BUDGET TIP

Save money and buy longer lengths of timber. So if you need three 1.8m pieces, get a 5.4m length of timber instead.

Build a slatted garden trellis on one side of the pergola and add timber planter boxes.

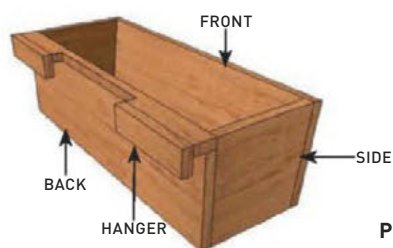




## TRELLIS AND PLANTERS



TRELLIS



PLANTER BOX

## WHAT YOU NEED



Feast Watson Natural Decking Oil, \$80 for 4L.  
[feastwatson.com.au](http://feastwatson.com.au)

Uni-Pro 130mm Fence Painter Roller Cover,  
about \$11. [unipro.com.au](http://unipro.com.au)



Buildex 16-8 x 125mm Climacoat  
Type 17 Timber Construction Screws,  
\$17 for a 20 pack. [buildex.com.au](http://buildex.com.au)

Combine  
colour with  
texture for  
natural appeal



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**Before**

**After**

The pergola offers both shade and privacy on the new poolside deck.

### Poolside upgrade

This backyard pool needed a shaded area for lounging and entertaining, so a pergola was built to provide cover. It features a bamboo roof to offer shade without blocking out too much light.

Next, a freestanding deck was installed and lattice added to the rear of the pergola to provide screening.

The new seating area is now big enough for the whole family to enjoy and ideal for pool parties.

For the plans to build this pergola and deck, visit [handyman.net.au](http://handyman.net.au).

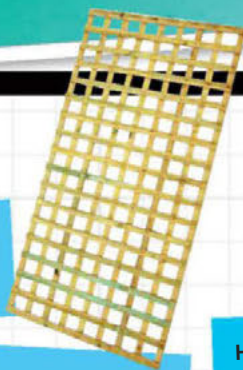
**GET THE LOOK**



Tuscan Path 31cm Glazed Tall Lily Pot, \$25. [tuscanpath.com.au](http://tuscanpath.com.au)



Jewel Range 150mm Bio Geranium Red, about \$11, from Bunnings.



Lattice Makers 1200 x 2400 x 65mm Lattice, \$30. [laticemakers.com](http://laticemakers.com)



Haven 46cm Asian Fusion Black Osaka Lantern, \$40, from Bunnings.



Plain Rib 43 x 43cm Cushion in Scuba Blue, \$7. [target.com.au](http://target.com.au)





### Easy DIY kit

To save time on measuring up and cutting the timber for a pergola build, buy a kit instead for a fast install.

Softwoods can design and prepare a customised pergola that will suit the size and style of your outdoor living area. (softwoods.com.au).

Softwoods 6 x 4m precut attached pergola, hardware and roofing included, \$4025.

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# WHAT'S NEW

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## DESIGN TIP

Choose fabrics that are weather-resistant for cushions and seating so your outdoor setting lasts for years.

### RELAX OUTDOORS



Serve drinks at the Mimosa Seven-piece Silverleaves Resin Wicker Bar Setting, \$499.



Keep guests comfortable in the Mimosa Three-piece Silverleaves Aluminium Daybed, \$999.



Gather around a Mimosa Silverleaves Corner Lounge Setting, \$599, with a coffee table ottoman.



Take a seat in the Mimosa Silverleaves Aluminium Swivel Chair, \$399.



## DINE ALFRESCO



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Four-piece Aluminium  
Manor Setting, \$799.



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a Mimosa Manor Aluminium  
Cushioned Sun Lounge, \$189.



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Finish off the entertaining  
area with the Mimosa Mareeba  
Timber Dining Chair, \$89.



Host the whole horde at  
the Mimosa Mareeba  
Timber Bench, \$129.



# DOOR INSTALL

Update the entrance to your house with a DIY fix in under two days

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

**F**irst impressions count and when it comes to your home, it's your entrance that will be noticed first. So, what if the front door is in bad shape?

This door was losing functionality due to weather damage. Panels were delaminating badly and the jamb was swollen, making the door hard to open and close properly.

To give the entrance a complete overhaul, we added a new architrave, replaced the door and jamb, and installed a screen door.

We used a Corinthian Easy Fit Plus door, \$385 ([corinthian.com.au](http://corinthian.com.au)), which took much of the difficulty out of the job, as all doors in the range are pre-drilled and machined for the door hardware.

The matching Corinthian doorframe, \$199, included hinges, strike plate and screws, so the only job was to assemble it all and give it a fresh coat of paint.

It took a day and a half to replace the door and jamb and add the screen door, costing about \$1229 in total. ➤



Before

## STUART'S TOOLKIT



Ozito 18V Brushless  
Drill Driver, \$149,  
[ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)



Stanley FatMax BladeArmor  
8m Tape Measure, \$24.  
[stanleytools.com.au](http://stanleytools.com.au)



Bosch 190W  
Multi Function Tool,  
\$99. [bosch.com.au](http://bosch.com.au)



Secure and attractive, the Entrance Lockset from Lane Security, \$160, is the ideal piece of furniture for a new door. This lockset is available in High Security or Emergency Escape options. [itwproline.com.au](http://itwproline.com.au)



## DIY TIP

Keep painted surfaces damage free by scoring the junctions between architraves and walls before removing them.

## After

A sleek new door and a light grey paint job refreshes the entrance.

Stuart



## EXPERT SECRETS

Choose a front door that features glass panels to allow more light to get into entrance areas.



# REPLACE THE DOOR



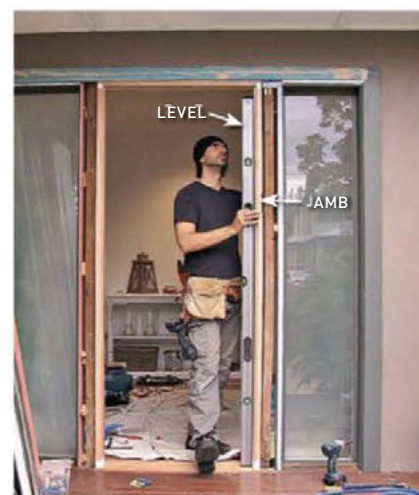
## 1 Remove the old door

Unscrew the old door, removing the top screw last. Carefully use a chisel to remove trims and architraves. Retain these to replace later. Get an electrician to terminate or move any architrave switches. Use a hacksaw to cut the existing fixings. Cut the jambs with a handsaw and then remove them.



## 2 Attach the hinges

Apply primer to the edges of the new door and the rebated hinge and strike plate positions on the jambset. When the paint is dry, fit the hinges to the door with the supplied screws, then screw the jambset to the sill block. Stand the frame in the opening and check for level, packing underneath.



## 3 Install the new doorframe

Centre the frame in the opening, flush with the interior linings, and use a level to plumb the hinge side. Screw through the thick section of the jamb into the house frame at the hinge positions, using packers to keep the doorframe centred and plumb. Repeat this process on the lock side.



## 4 Hang the door

Stand the door at 90° to the doorframe and pack underneath to align the hinges with their rebates. An extra pair of hands will be welcome at this stage. Starting at the top, put two of the supplied screws into each hinge. Remove the packers and check the door swings freely and shuts accurately.



## 5 Apply the finish

Once happy with the fit, remove the door. Remove the hinges, then paint or stain the door, paying attention to the top and base to ensure they are well covered. When the paint is dry, reattach the hinges and rehang the door. Use the instructions to fit your selected lock and door hardware.



## 6 Fit the architrave

Refit the old trims if they are in good shape, by filling, sanding and painting the area, as required. If the trims are damaged, fit new mouldings. Nail the trims to the doorframe and house frame, then mitre the corners, and glue and nail these joints. Fill, sand and paint the area, as necessary. ➤



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You can now enter and exit in complete style with our premium Trilock® Omni back to back. The Trilock® Omni back to back provides the perfect fusion of leading style and superior function featuring a 600mm pull handle on both the exterior and interior sides of the door.

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[www.gainsboroughhardware.com.au](http://www.gainsboroughhardware.com.au)



# INSTALL A SCREEN DOOR

Once the front door was in place, a screen door was added to complete the look and add extra security.

The sleek and sturdy Adjustable Aluminium Security Door with a perforated grille from Protector, \$549 ([protectoraluminium.com.au](http://protectoraluminium.com.au)), was ideal for the job, as it could be custom fitted to suit the size of the entrance.



Choose an exterior door that looks good, offers security and will screen out flying bugs

1 2 3

A perforated grille lets air in and keeps bugs out.



## 1 Assemble the screen door

Measure the door opening then, using a circular saw with an aluminium blade, cut the sides 10mm less than the overall height, and the top and base 167mm less than the width. Fit the corner brackets to the sides, then build the frame and centre the screen panel. Screw as directed by the instructions.



## 2 Hang the door

Place the screen door in the opening, packing under the door to provide a 5mm clearance all around, then mark the hinge positions. Position the door at 90° to the doorframe and align with the hinge marks. Starting at the top, drill 2.5mm pilot holes, then screw the hinges to the doorframe.



## 3 Attach the hardware

Fit an outer latch handle to the door with the handle facing the hinge side. Insert the spindle through the door. Position the inner handle and fit the two handles together, then insert the barrel. Mark the strike positions on the frame and fit the strike plates, using a chisel to rebate these flush. 🔩





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# INSIDE OUT

A steel shed frame transforms a wreck of a cottage into a home that surprises all who step foot in it

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES PETER BENNETTS

**L**ike with so much good urban architecture, from the front of this home, you would never know what lies within.

This old weatherboard cottage in Melbourne's western suburbs had been neglected for many years. Inside, there were only four dark, cramped rooms.

The new owners, Derek and Michelle, knew the property was virtually unliveable, but they were moving from a city apartment and were drawn to the size of the 500sqm block and the expanse of garden.

Wanting something that was non-traditional and expressive, they quickly turned to local architect Andrew Maynard for direction. ➤



Before



After

The renovated cottage is now spacious, high-ceilinged and filled with sunlight.





The length of this block meant that the house could be extended on one level, instead of the traditional downstairs-upstairs approach





## DESIGN TIP

Building bench seating into a kitchen island creates a feature and also saves space.

A pond runs alongside the house and steel walkways form the entry points.





It was all about the garden for the owners, so the integration of the outdoors became the defining feature

### Shed style

This is anything but a traditional house and backyard. Andrew explains how the idea came about.

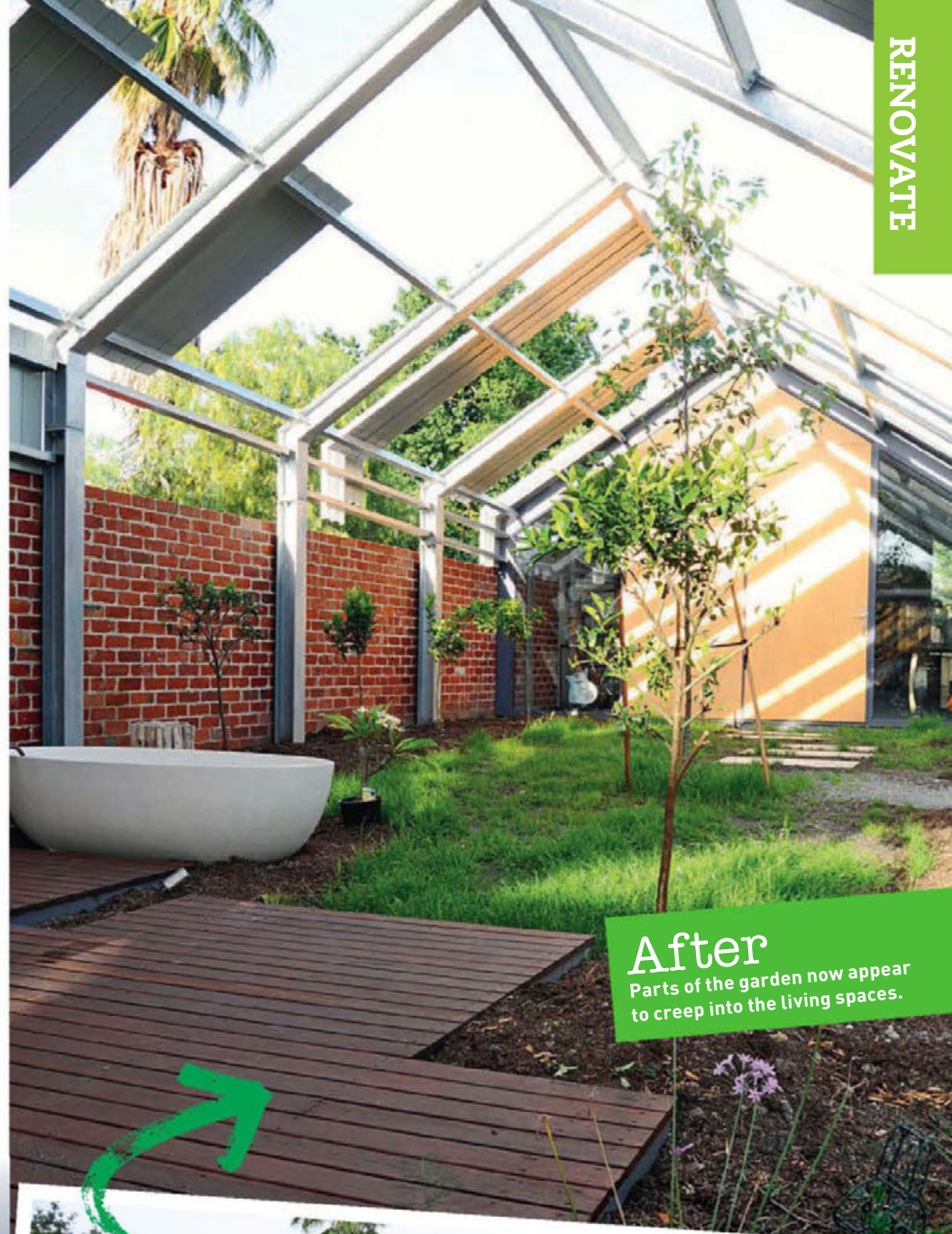
'This project had a limited budget, so we wanted to get the most bang for our buck. The simplicity of assembling a stock standard shed, then lining and insulating it beautifully was the tactic we decided to employ,' he says.

A polished concrete floor runs throughout the living space, with all the storage and functional elements hidden behind a bank of cupboards.

'The shed structure that leads on from there is just garden. It can be open to the house in summer and closed with glass sliders in the colder months, but still be visible,' says Andrew.

The galvanised steel frame lends a ruinous, skeleton look to the property that appealed to Derek and Michelle.

'We let Andrew and his team run with their ideas and we love every part of it,' says Derek. ➤



After

Parts of the garden now appear to creep into the living spaces.



Before



## DESIGN TIP

Leaving the shed frame open means that the plants can eventually grab hold of it and bring it to life.

An alfresco bath is a luxurious and unexpected touch.

## Private spaces

Derek needed a music studio and wanted it to be separate from the rest of the house, and the elongated design allows for separation, physically and acoustically, so it feels like an office.

The cost-effective simple interior has the full benefit of the view through the shed area to the house.

Extremes of temperature are also considered in the design, and the house is run east-west with the gardens and windows facing north.

This means the space is passively heated in winter when the sun is low and, in summer, the eaves are designed so the sun doesn't hit the glass directly.

Hydronic heating was installed under the slab, which runs at a low constant temperature throughout winter, using very little energy. ➤





A separate space was incorporated into the design for music producer Derek. **BELOW** The main bedroom is well away from the active parts of the house.



## BUILD IT STRONG

Ideal for pergolas, sleepers, gates & fencing, **Buildex® Timber Construction Screws** offer faster installation, superior clamping force & stronger performance.

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warehouse  
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## Open house

The original part of the house now contains a guest bedroom, study, bathroom and laundry, as well as the master bedroom.

Rather than being disjointed and separate, the main bedroom neatly links the old part of the house and the new structure, with the Victorian ash flooring and plywood wardrobes and cupboards signalling the flow.

Open to the garden and the new living area, a tracks system allows a wall to be pulled across to create privacy when guests come over or left open for relaxed evenings.

Exposed brickwork references an original feature of the property and ties the industrial materials together. The fireplace in the master bedroom is part of a joining wall from which the plaster was chipped away. ●

## After

The master bedroom now seamlessly links the old and the new structures.

## Before





**After**

The plaster was chipped off the wall in the main bedroom to expose the brick fireplace.

**Before**

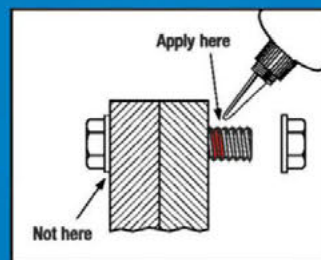
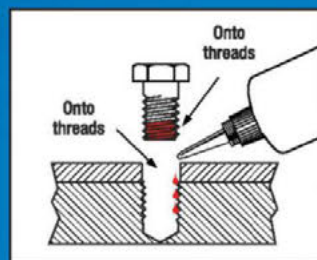
## STEAL THIS STYLE

The options to choose privacy or inclusion make for a truly responsive home that only adds to comfort and enjoyment.

**Andrew Maynard, architect**

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# BATH MAT

To make a bath mat in just a few hours all you need is a few pieces of timber, a handsaw and a power drill.

Cut 70 x 19mm merbau into slats and join them with cleats using 30mm galvanised screws. Finish the mat with a timber stain, varnish or oil to give it a waterproof barrier.

## Materials

Measuring tape  
Combination square  
Handsaw  
Sandpaper  
Clamps  
Drill and countersink bit  
Small paintbrush  
Pencil

Make a designer bath accessory DIY using merbau.

1 2 3



### 1 Cut the timber

Cut six 800mm long timber slats and three 440mm long cleats using a handsaw. Line up the slats on a flat surface spaced with 5mm even gaps. Position the cleats across the slats at least 50mm from each end and clamp.



### 2 Secure the cleats

Mark two screw holes for each slat on the cleats. Use a countersink bit to predrill the holes, then secure the slats through the cleats with galvanised screws but don't drive them in too hard, as this could split the timber.



### 3 Apply the stain

Round off any sharp edges and sand the surface using 180 grit paper, then apply 2-3 coats of decking oil. It will cause the timber fibres to swell, making the surface feel rough, so sand lightly in between coats for a smooth finish.



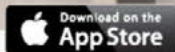
# Chaos.

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# CHOOSING CARPET

Living areas

Select a plush floor covering for a cosy feel in bedrooms and living areas

**ABOVE** Comfort collection, \$650 per room fully installed.  
**BELOW** Endurance collection, \$520 per room fully installed.

**N**othing says comfort and luxury like a soft new carpet, so it's a fantastic flooring choice in rooms designed for relaxing, like bedrooms and living areas.

The soft feel of carpet underfoot makes it ideal for creating cosy spaces in the home, as it has excellent noise and heat insulating properties.

To choose the right carpet, consider how the room will be used.

Hard-wearing carpet is ideal for high-traffic areas such as hallways, whereas bedrooms can benefit from the comfort of a softer and deeper pile.

Also take your furniture into account when choosing carpet and go for a colour that complements your existing pieces so you won't need to redecorate later on.

## DIY TIP

Laying good-quality underlay improves the comfort of your carpet dramatically, so choose the best you can afford.

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE PULL UP AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING CARPET, FURNITURE REMOVAL, FLOOR PREPARATION, STAIRS AND TRIMS. RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS ONLY. OFFER NOT AVAILABLE IN WA OR NT.



## Bedrooms

Performance collection, \$740 per room fully installed.

### DESIGN TIP

Lighter shades of carpet can make a room feel bigger, while darker colours are better for hiding marks and stains.

Luxury collection, \$960 per room fully installed.

Consider your furniture and choose a colour that complements your existing pieces

Performance collection, \$740 per room fully installed.

## Study

Value collection, \$410 per room fully installed.



## DIY TIP

Shine a torch across the surfaces as you work to highlight any imperfections that need touching up.



## After

With a new burner and decorative finish on the fireplace, the room is transformed.



# FIREPLACE FACELIFT

Replace an old wood-burning fireplace and give the surrounds a shiny modern makeover

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

**D**o you love an open fire but hate the hassles that can go with it? Like chopping wood, removing the ash and cleaning up afterwards.

Converting your existing fireplace to clean-burning bioethanol, which is also known as methylated spirits, could be the best solution.

It burns with no emissions, so you don't need a chimney or flue, and the heat generated stays in the home.

No matter what style of fireplace you have, there are suitable bioethanol burners to convert it.

Even if you don't have a fireplace, there are a whole host of designs that don't need to be built in. Freestanding, tabletop and those you can hang on a wall, and none need to be flued.

The 6L stainless steel burner used for this project is from Black and Stone and converted the existing fireplace with minimal modifications. ➤



## Refinish the fireplace

We didn't want to spend days and days stripping and refinishing the fireplace, so we used Rockcote products to get the job done fast ([rockcote.com.au](http://rockcote.com.au)).

Keycote Fast Prep was used, which allows you to render over sound painted surfaces.

A traditional Venetian Plaster finish was applied. We had it tinted with black oxide to create a smooth and glossy background that really shows off the flames.

To protect the plaster and achieve a glossy shine, liquid Carnauba Wax was applied prior to grouting the tiles.

Dilute one part wax to nine parts water, then apply to the finished plaster using a spray bottle. Polish with a soft cloth or use buffing pads to achieve your desired level of gloss.

Before

Salvage a few tiles from the old hearth and incorporate them into the new layout

STUART'S  
PICKS



Ozito 89mm 600W Plunge Pro Multi Cutter, \$149. [ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)



Trojan Three-piece Diamond Wheel Blade Set, \$26. [trojantools.com.au](http://trojantools.com.au)



Black and Stone VioFlame 6L 600mm Stainless Steel Custom Burner, \$649. [blackandstone.com.au](http://blackandstone.com.au)



# MAKE OVER THE FIREPLACE



## 1 Cut the blocks

Measure the burner and fireplace to create a recess for the new burner, then cut three Hebel blocks with a handsaw, clamping each to a workbench.

**TIP** We used 125mm thick blocks, but choose a size to suit the burner depth.



## 2 Lay the blocks

Dry-fit the blocks, remove, then secure with Hebel adhesive. Lay the blocks by using a 5mm notched trowel to form a bed of adhesive, then apply adhesive to the block ends. Use a bricklayer's trowel to tidy up any excess adhesive.



## 3 Add the render edge

Remove loose paint and clean surfaces. Use a steel trowel to apply Keycote Fast Prep, then cut the render edge for the surrounds, mitring the corners, and embed into the Keycote. Smooth with a trowel and let cure for 24-48 hours.



## 4 Apply fine render

Mix the render and apply a 4-8mm deep layer using a steel trowel, and spray-mist the surfaces using a spray bottle so you can keep working until a smooth and even finish is achieved. Allow to cure for 8-12 hours.



## 5 Apply a decorative finish

Using a plastic trowel, apply Venetian Plaster in 1.5-2mm deep coats. Re-wet as needed and build up the coats to achieve a very smooth, glossy finish.

**TIP** Colour the plaster with oxide or paint tint, testing the colour is right.



## 6 Cut the tiles

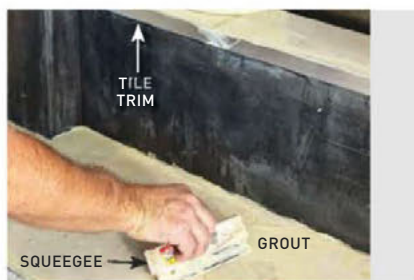
Mark the position of the burner, then cut the tile edge trim to length, securing it to the floor. Test-fit the tile layout and cut the tiles to suit.

**TIP** If you don't have a plunge cutter, use an angle grinder to cut the tiles.



## 7 Lay the tiles

Spread tile adhesive with a 10mm notched trowel, then lay the tiles using tile spacers, wedges and a straightedge to keep them level and evenly spaced. Clean off excess adhesive with a damp sponge and leave to set for 24 hours.



## 8 Grout the tiles

Secure the tile edge trim to the tiles on the blocks with construction adhesive. Mix the grout and work it into the joints with a rubber squeegee, using a damp sponge to wipe off any excess. When dry, wash with clean water.



## 9 Seal the tiles

Buff away any remaining grout residue. Use a brush to apply a premium tile sealer to the tiles and joints to protect from any fuel spills. Drop the burner into position, then let the sealer cure for 24 hours before lighting the fire.



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# INSTANT IMPACT

Repaint the exterior of your house to protect the surfaces and refresh the look

A fresh lick of paint on the exterior surfaces makes your home look cared for, and it can extend the life of timber and masonry.

Preparation is key and surfaces must be sound, clean and dry for good paint adhesion and longevity.

Work from the top down to avoid drips on freshly painted areas. Start with gutters, fascia boards and eaves, then paint walls, downpipes and trim.

For windows, use a 50mm angled sash brush, overlapping paint slightly onto the glass, then removing with a razor-blade paint scraper when dry.

With doors, paint the panels, then work into the corners using long strokes in the direction of the grain, brushing back over wet paint to avoid marks.

To paint weatherboard, work horizontally, painting three boards at a time. If the surface has vertical boards or panels, paint each one from top to base, then move to the next board. ➤

## SAFETY TIP

When painting windows or doors, plan to paint them early in the day so they're dry enough to be closed at night.

## DIY PLAN

It can cost from \$4000 to \$8000 to get a house professionally painted, but you can DIY for under \$1000.

- 1 **CLEAN** the surfaces by hand or use a pressure cleaner.
- 2 **PREPARE** the surfaces by sanding to remove rough sections and any flaking paint.
- 3 **PATCH** any damage such as gaps, splits or cracks.
- 4 **PROTECT** the surrounds with drop sheets and masking tape.
- 5 **APPLY** the paint in two coats, leaving it to dry after each one.





# Protect and paint timber

The paintwork on these fence posts and side gate was exposed to extremes of temperature, getting cold and damp in winter and baking hot in summer. Over time, this caused the paint to flake off in areas.

But with a little easy preparation, a protective coat to seal the timber and two coats of paint, the fence and gate will be protected from the weather, and look as good as new.

## WHAT YOU NEED

Rhino Black 75mm Scraper, \$8, from Bunnings.

Trojan 220 Grit Jumbo Sanding Sponge, about \$5. [trojantools.com.au](http://trojantools.com.au)

Dulux Prepcoat 1 Step Primer, Sealer & Undercoat, about \$29 for 500ml. [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au)

Taubmans Endure Accent Gloss Exterior Paint, \$86 for 4L. [taubmans.com.au](http://taubmans.com.au)

Before

After  
The timber is now sealed and painted to withstand the weather.

Scrape off loose paint and sand smooth, then apply a coat of primer before painting.





## ROLL IT ON

- **USE** moderate pressure when using a roller and reload when the paint stops flowing easily.
- **START** near the top of the wall, rolling upwards in a big M shape, covering 1sqm at a time. Roll stripes across with even strokes, finishing in one direction, then continue lapping into the wet edge.
- **MASK** up trim edges to be cut into, or use a straightedge or paint shield, then cut in as close as you can with an angled sash brush.

Extend the paint at least 50mm out from the trim, then overlap close to the trim with the roller. **TIP** Work paint into cracks and splits and onto the base edge of boards with a brush, going with the grain to smooth the paint. ➤

### Brushwork techniques

- **FILL** a bucket with 100mm of paint instead of using a full can, to prevent it from drying out. Dip the bristles 50mm deep into the paint, then drag the brush against the inside of the bucket to remove the excess.
- **LAY** the paint on thickly using two or three back-and-forth strokes. Reload and repeat until 1sqm is covered.
- **SMOOTH** the paint using long strokes, without reloading, working from the unpainted area towards the painted.

## WHAT YOU NEED

Monarch 270mm Comfort Grip Roller Frame, \$10.  
austbrush.com.au

Uni-Pro EzyPot, about \$3.  
unipro.com.au

Biodegradable 75mm Paint Brush, about \$5.  
bunnings.com.au

Monarch 270 x 18mm Nap SmartWool Roller Cover, \$18.

Uni-Pro 3 In 1 Peel-A-Tray, about \$5.

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## TIDY TIP

To clean up water-based products, simply wash the paint container and spray attachment in warm, soapy water.

## Using a spray gun

The quickest way to apply paint to a large, smooth surface, after the fixtures and surrounding areas have been masked off, is with a spray gun.

Ensure the surface is free of dirt, dust or flaking varnish. Use a wire brush to scrape off any remaining paint flakes. Wash down, then let the surface dry thoroughly.

Start spraying at the top, then move across and down in overlapping layers without stopping until the wall is covered. Move the sprayer in a steady back-and-forth motion, keeping the gun perpendicular to the wall. ●



Wear a quality respirator mask and safety glasses when spraying

## WHAT YOU NEED



Scotch Blue 36mm Exterior Painter's Tape, \$15. [scotchblue.com.au](http://scotchblue.com.au)



Wagner Flexio 585 1-spray Paint Sprayer, \$219. [wagneraustralia.com.au](http://wagneraustralia.com.au)

Mask off doors and windows when spray painting.

A spray gun covers large areas quickly.



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## SAFETY TIP

The foundations are paramount, so before doing anything else, always check the solidity of the structure.

## After

The large unused garage is now a spacious well-equipped man cave.

# LABOUR OF LOVE

Professional builder Dylan Falecki broke all the rules when it came to creating his own man cave

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES DYLAN FALECKI

**T**o be a successful builder is to bring someone else's vision to life, and Dylan Falecki, who can be seen regularly on Network Ten's *The Living Room*, has a long list of happy clients.

But his approach was not what you might expect when it came to his own home in Sydney's western suburbs.

The 1950s cottage featured a large double garage set away from the main house, and while Dylan didn't initially know what to do with it, he knew it was a project in waiting.

'I spotted it had potential, but it was never going to be used to park two cars. After a while of settling into the house and the old garage still being there, my wife suggested demolishing it and building a new garage,' he says.

'I looked at the old hardwood frame, cedar cladding and tiled roof, and knew I couldn't sacrifice that.'

This motivated Dylan to start work on the garage, first lifting the whole structure up and replacing the foundations to ensure it was strong and solid from the beginning.

### A different approach

For Dylan, a completely new way of working was a large part of the appeal.

'As a professional builder, how I went about this is just about the opposite in every way from how you'd do it in a commercial sense,' he says.

'I had no drawings, no schedule of finishes, no budget and no time, plus my crazy brain running the thing.'

'This was a total passion project, a way for me to absolutely let go of all the rules and restrictions and simply work as the mood took me,' he says.

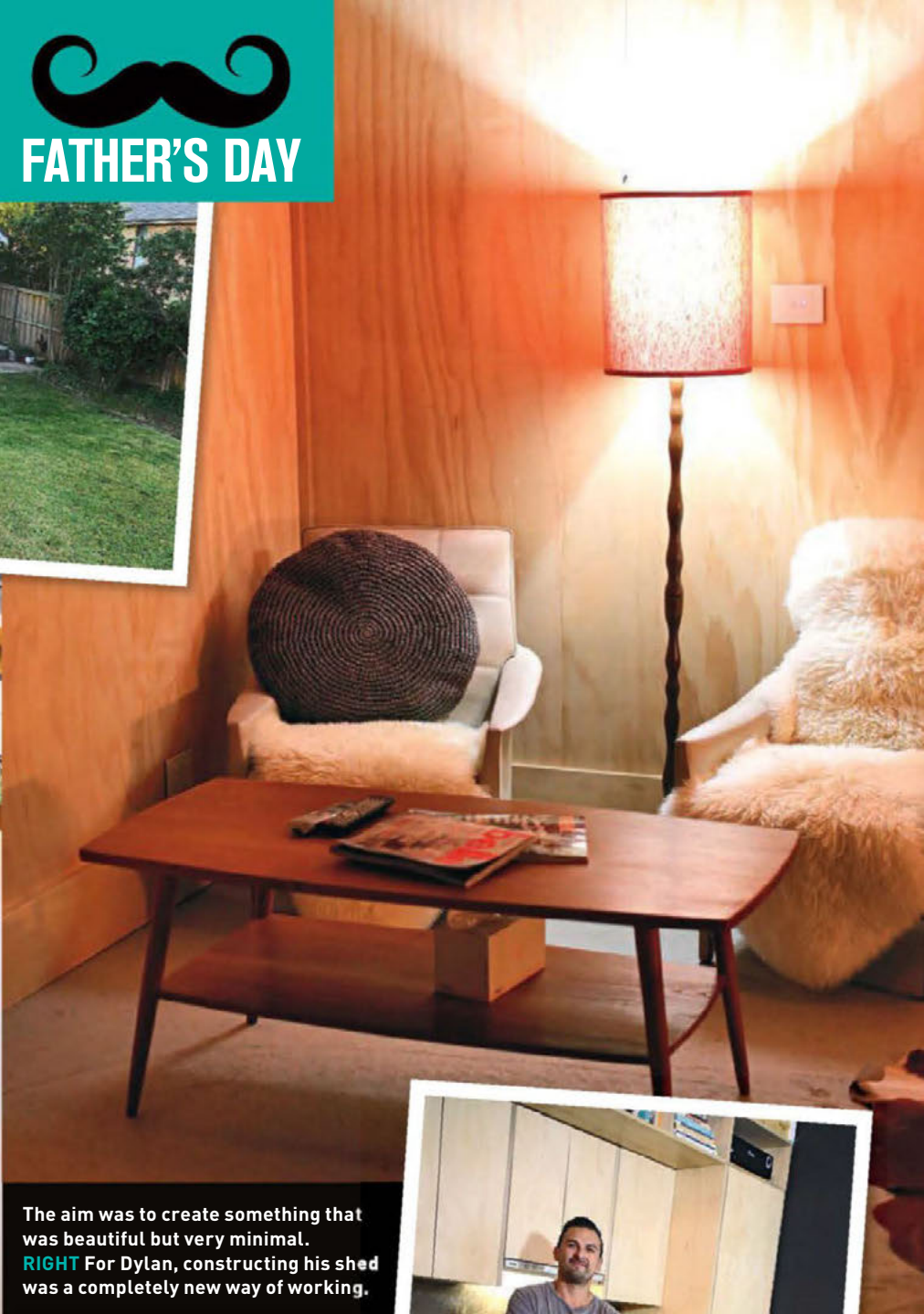




FATHER'S DAY



Before



The aim was to create something that was beautiful but very minimal.  
**RIGHT** For Dylan, constructing his shed was a completely new way of working.



If you've got no fixed deadlines, you can experiment a bit and just let the space evolve, like Dylan did when creating his shed

Dylan allowed himself to change his mind and start on things without knowing where it was going.

'I did some remedial work, then I thought, if I'm doing that, I may as well do the plumbing, and if I'm doing that,

I should get rid of the old outhouse and move the toilet inside, then I may as well rig up a shower and basin.

'Before I knew it, I had a storage loft, vaulted ceiling, integrated appliances and a marble splashback.' ➤







## FATHER'S DAY

★  
A set of cedar bifold doors found lying by the side of the road make a great back door for the shed, and open onto a pergola with a built-in barbie

Raw materials and recycled features blend harmoniously.

### Blending transition points

Something that looks simple and has simplicity of function is never simple. The one specification Dylan had was to create a beautiful but minimal space.

When there is a transition in surfaces or materials, these junction points are easily hidden with trims, skirtings, architraves and cornices, otherwise known as final fix methods.

'What I wanted was a seamless blend of all these different raw materials, from plywood to natural stone and concrete, and not have the eye distracted by trims and other embellishments,' says Dylan.

'It's not easy to achieve. It's what architects try in high-end buildings, and I wanted that for my shed.

'It meant being very particular about the cutting and meeting of materials, and using plywood skirting on the plywood walls, and aluminium extrusion for trim,' he says.



### Designs on plywood

After all the kitchens Dylan has installed, he was determined not to follow the same rules. He had a long list of materials he was deadset against using.

'No melamine, no polyurethane, no Ceasarstone, no plasterboard,

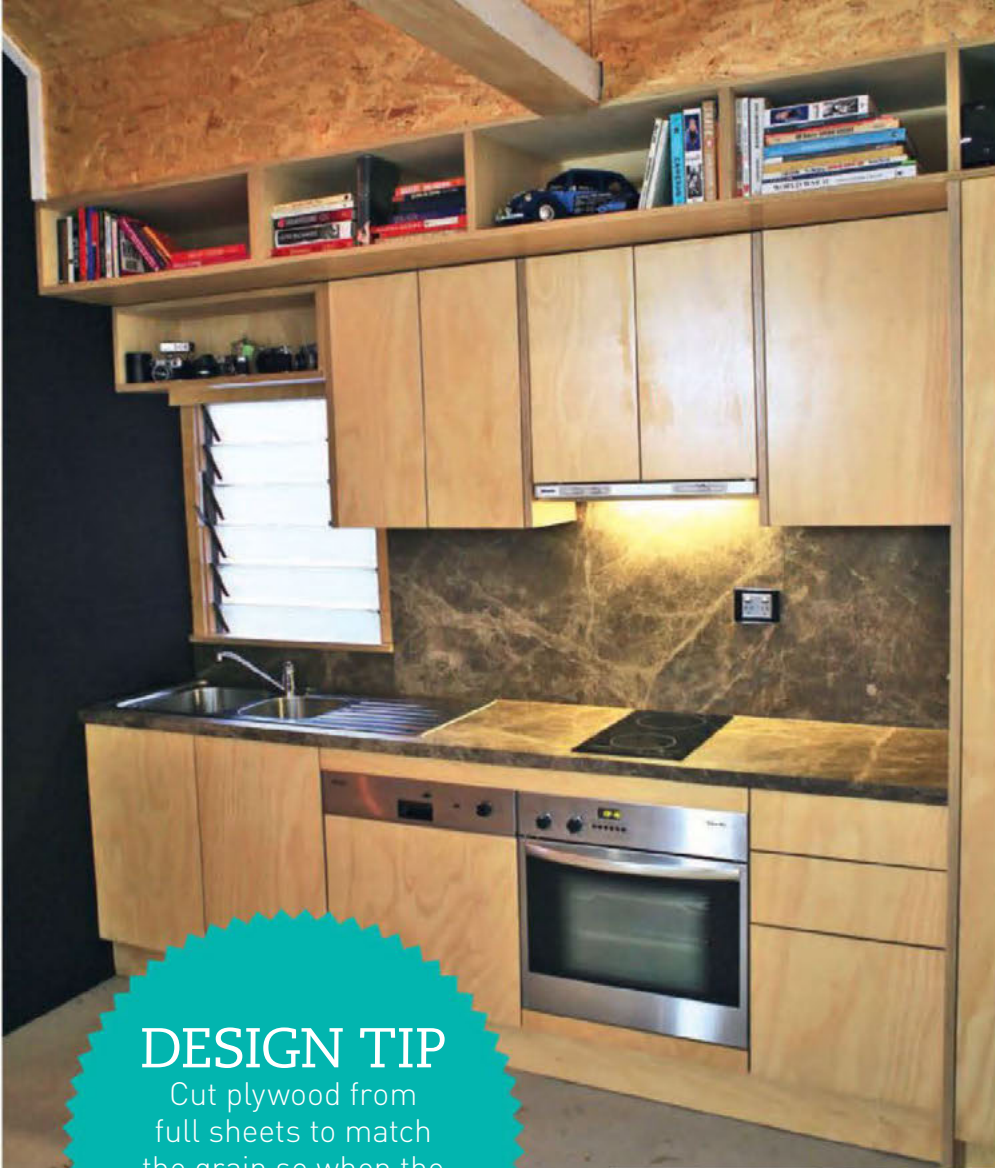
no finger-jointed pine, no tiles, not in my man shed. I just really wanted to explore different ways,' he says.

Once Dylan had actually decided on the position of the kitchen, after flipping it around twice, he ended up creating a unique look using an unexpected material, plywood.

His plywood design has taken a very ordinary, base material that is most often used for reinforcing and bracing, and turned it into the hero.

'Plywood is an amazing durable product. Making it look really good was a matter of taking the time to lay it all out before cutting,' says Dylan.

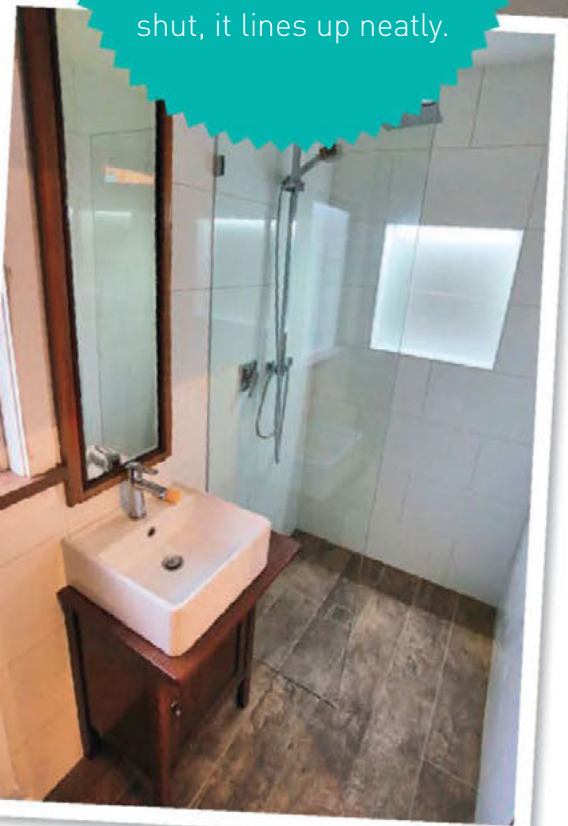




## DESIGN TIP

Cut plywood from full sheets to match the grain so when the drawers and doors are shut, it lines up neatly.

In the kitchen, the benchtop and splashback are made from marble. **BELOW** Dylan's shed even boasts a walk-in shower, toilet and basin.



## Using natural stone

While engineered stone is by far the most common choice for benchtops, Dylan says the price differential is so minimal that he wanted to experiment with natural stone.

He persuaded a stonemason friend to let him use his equipment to make the benchtop and splashback.

'I had a go at making the flip joint myself, honing, polishing and cutting the marble, and I now have such an appreciation of what's involved in the fabrication of natural stone,' he says.

'I love the combination of the basic and the luxurious. I call it bleak chic, as it's a bit bleak and a bit chic, and it works.'

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# WACKY SHEDS

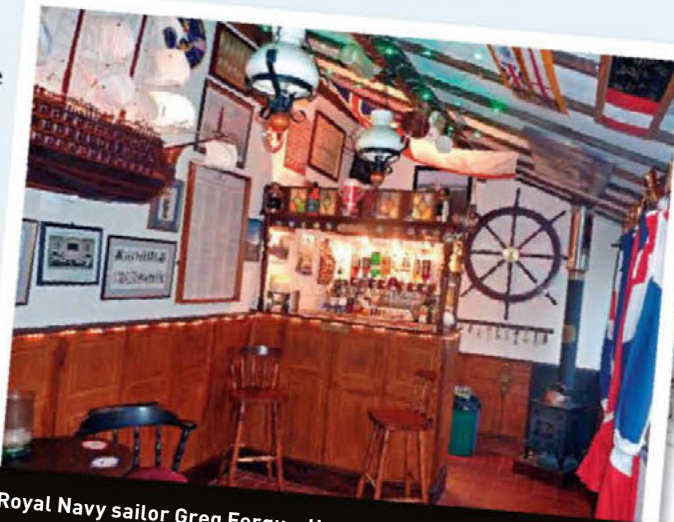
Get inspired to build your own ultimate garden hideaway

For most of us, a shed is a place to store tools, garden equipment and more often than not, junk. But for some handy people, the humble shed can be so much more.

The UK's annual Shed Of The Year competition showcases a collection of the most weird and wonderful man caves, backyard bars and buildings that can only be described as unique.

Decked out with gadgets, 'mantiques' and whatever else won't fit in the house, they come in all shapes and sizes from tree houses and pirate-themed pubs to waterfront cottages.

Some are massive while others are modest, but they're all places to relax and unwind at the end of the day. ➤



Royal Navy sailor Greg Fergus-Hunt built the Jack & Anchor Pub.



Bill Cotterill's Otter Retreat is perched on the edge of a backyard dam.





## FATHER'S DAY

15A

BLACKBEARDS BASTION

RASTA SHED

CROW'S NEST BAR

RAINFOREST

CANNON

CARIBBEAN DRINKING SHED

THE BOARDWALK

LONG SHED

CRANEBRIDGE

MOAT

MINE SHFT

### DIY TIP

Give your shed more personality by decorating it with quirky homemade objects rather than using store-bought items.

Keith Brown's four-storey shed boasts cannons, a crow's nest bar and moat with drawbridge.

THE CARIBBEAN DRINKING SHED





## FATHER'S DAY

### Backyard bar

Why watch the footy at a crowded pub when you can invite all your mates over to your own backyard bar and enjoy the game in comfort, with cold beer on tap?

The beauty of a shed is that it serves as an all-weather hangout. While a backyard is great in summer, you'll be thankful for a warm shed when it's cold or raining outside. ➤



With comfortable seating, cold beverages and great company, it's easy to see the appeal of a man cave

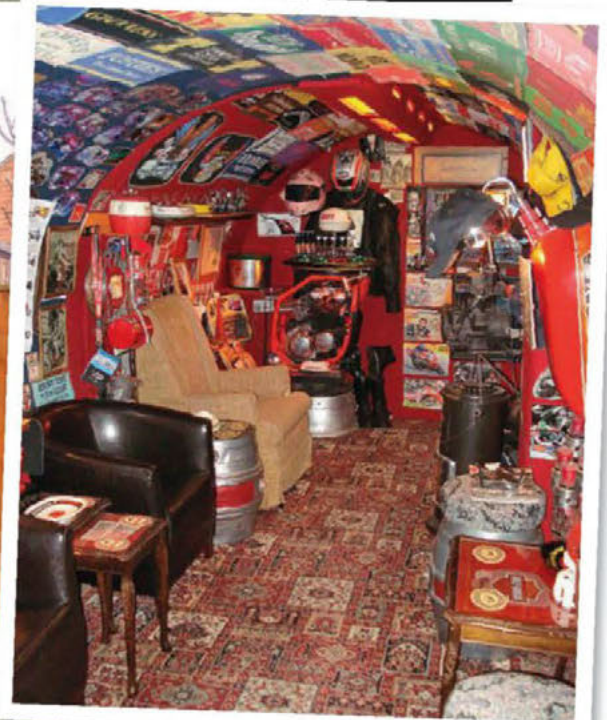
**LEFT** Ross Mitchell's workshop features a living roof and curved walls.

**BELOW LEFT** Tim Ball's castle-shaped shed acts as the neighbourhood pub.

**BELOW** Michael Jelley's six-room man cave is full of motorcycle memorabilia.

### SAFETY TIP

Most freestanding buildings will require approval from local council, so double check before breaking ground.



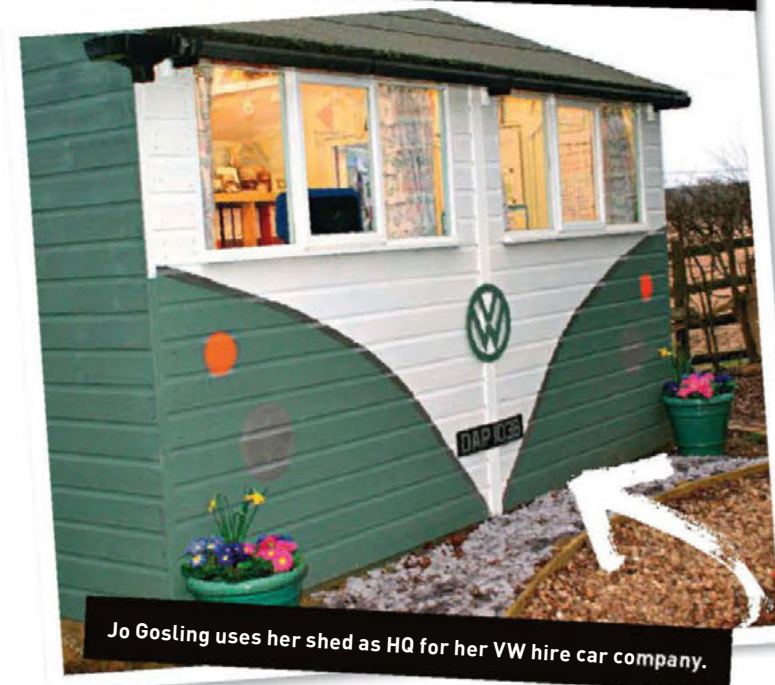




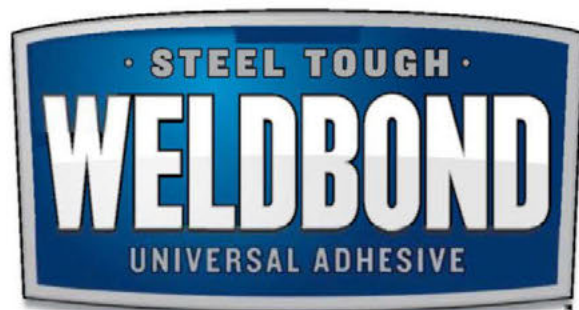
Sean Marsden's shed is modelled on a Hobbit house.



Michael Dodd's party shed is equipped to make any cocktail you fancy.



Jo Gosling uses her shed as HQ for her VW hire car company.



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## FATHER'S DAY



**LEFT** Terry Meredith's tree house is built 4.5m high in four oak trees, seats 10 people and has a central barbecue. **BELOW** Derek Verlander's shed looks like a Japanese tea house, but it has a built-in fish tank, hi-fi and bar.



### Style statement

Your shed reflects your personality, so the style can be connected to your hobbies and interests. Perhaps you always wished you had a tree house as a child, or maybe you spend all day dreaming of far-off exotic locations.

Incorporating the shed into the landscape of your backyard creates a more appealing space, and increases the chances of getting permission to build it from the better half! 🌿



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# JUST FOR DAD

Whip up a special Father's Day gift in less than an hour for under \$10

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

**C**rafty blogger Melissa created this picture in under an hour and it cost her less than \$10.

'I've got an easy and super quick Father's Day gift for you,' she says.

'If you're like me and leave presents for Father's Day to the last minute, then this word art is what you need. I made one very similar to this for my mum, and I have one for myself hanging on my office wall.'

## WHAT YOU NEED

➤ **COMPUTER** You don't have to be tech savvy to create this picture. Just a basic knowledge of Microsoft Word, or a similar program, is all you need.

➤ **PRINTER** This is a must, but if you don't own one, you can pop down to your local Officeworks to print it there. A basic ink jet printer, like Melissa has, is all that's required.

Melissa

## EXPERT SECRETS

If you like the quote used here, you're in luck.

You can download a free printable PDF of it, which will save you time searching the internet.

Go to my blog, click on Projects and you'll find it under Crafts & Decorating.

1 2 3



### 1 Choose a quote

Turn on your computer and browse the internet to find a meaningful quote or saying for your father. Or visit Pinterest and search for Father's Day quotes and you'll find lots of different ones are available.



### 2 Create a design

Use Microsoft Word, or a similar program, to type the quote in your favourite font. To add interest, use different-sized words throughout the quote. Select the size and type of paper you're going to print on.



### 3 Frame the word art

Choose a frame for the print. Here, a white 20 x 25cm frame, \$9, from Kmart, was used. This fits an A4 print. Before printing, do a test print to check the spacing is correct. Let it dry, if needed, then fit it into the frame.





## FATHER'S DAY

### DIY TIP

Have a look around the house for an old sheet of music or other decorative paper to print your word art on.



Make the most important word in the quote red so it stands out.

For more DIY from Melissa,  
follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)



# Foodie FAVES

Cook Dad a feast this year and give him this book full of blokey recipes

WORDS AND PICTURES PAUL MERCURIO



Paul Mercurio is on a mission to tempt more people into the kitchen. Designed to help you embrace your inner chef and 'get your mojo on', his latest cookbook, *Kitchen Mojo* (\$40, Murdoch Books), features over 120 mouth-watering recipes that are easy to make and even easier to eat.

## Barbecued lamb ribs

### Ingredients

1 teaspoon fennel seeds  
1 teaspoon cumin seeds  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon celery salt  
1 teaspoon sweet paprika  
1 teaspoon dried rosemary  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
3 trimmed lamb rib racks (about 1kg)

### 'SLAW

75g thinly sliced green cabbage  
75g thinly sliced red cabbage  
50g thinly sliced snow peas  
1 carrot, julienned  
2 cheeks red capsicum, thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons mixed seeds (pumpkin and sunflower seeds and pine nuts)  
235g whole-egg mayonnaise  
55g caster sugar  
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
2 teaspoons horseradish cream  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method

❶ **PREHEAT** the barbecue grill to medium-high. Dry-fry the fennel and cumin seeds in a small frying

pan over high heat until they begin to lightly smoke. Turn off the heat and tip the seeds into a mortar, then use the pestle to grind them into a powder. Add the rest of the herbs and spices and grind together well to make a rub.

❷ **COVER** the lamb ribs generously with the rub, then place the ribs, fat or meat side down, onto the hot barbecue grill. The fat from the ribs will render out and baste the ribs, but you do need to keep an eye on them in case you get flare-ups, where the fat catches fire. If this happens, move the ribs out of the fire to another part of the grill and continue cooking. Don't worry if the ribs get a little charred from the flames, as that's all part of the theatre and the taste of a barbie!

❸ **COOK** the rib racks for about 5-7 minutes, turn them over and cook for a further 5-7 minutes, then remove them from the heat.

❹ **CUT** the racks into separate ribs and pile them high on a plate so people can help themselves. Watch mates carefully, though, as once they start eating these, they won't be able to stop and you may not get any.

❺ **MAKE** the 'slaw by putting all the vegetables and seeds in a large salad bowl and mixing to combine well. Put the mayonnaise, caster sugar, white wine vinegar and horseradish cream in a small bowl and whisk to combine well. Taste to season. Pour the dressing over the 'slaw, toss together and serve.

**TIP** You'll find mixed seeds in the health food aisle of the supermarket or in health-food shops. ➤



Enjoy these barbecue ribs on their own or make them go further by serving them with an incredibly moreish coleslaw





## FATHER'S DAY

Feeds 2-4



Dip the ribs in a tomato chilli chutney to add a little spice.







## FATHER'S DAY

Feeds 4



If you like your lamb stew hot and spicy, Paul recommends using four chillies.





## Rich spiced lamb stew

### Ingredients

80ml olive oil  
 1 large red onion, sliced  
 4 garlic cloves, roughly chopped  
 1 tablespoon ground cumin  
 1 tablespoon sweet paprika  
 1 tablespoon chilli powder  
 600g deboned lamb leg, cut into roughly 2cm cubes  
 250ml Belgian double ale  
 1 red bird's-eye chilli, sliced  
 45g sultanas  
 6 semi-dried dates (such as medjool)  
 1 cinnamon stick  
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 15g chopped coriander  
 7g chopped flat-leaf parsley  
 3 roma tomatoes, cut into wedges  
 45g sliced kale  
 Couscous or potatoes, to serve

### Method

**1 HEAT** the olive oil in a deep-sided large frying pan or flameproof casserole dish with a lid over medium-high heat. Add the onion and garlic and fry, stirring often, for 8-10 minutes. Add the cumin, paprika and chilli powder, stirring to combine, and fry for a couple more minutes.  
**2 INCREASE** the heat to high and add the lamb. Stir well to coat with spice mix, then brown for about 10 minutes. Stir in the beer and 150ml of water, then stir in the sliced chilli, sultanas, dates and cinnamon. Season, then add the fresh herbs. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover, and cook for 1½ hours or until the meat is quite tender, checking it after an hour.  
**3 ADD** the tomato wedges and kale to the stew, stirring to combine, then simmer for a further 10 minutes. You may need to add a little extra water, as the stew can become a little dry. It is meant to be a thick dry-style stew, not a wet stew with lots of liquid.  
**4 SERVE** with couscous, or mashed or boiled potatoes.



Feeds 4-6

## Nachos extraordinaire

### Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil  
 1 small onion, finely diced  
 1 fresh jalapeño chilli, finely diced  
 1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
 ½ teaspoon ground cumin  
 1 teaspoon Mexican chilli powder  
 1 teaspoon smoky paprika  
 150g minced pork  
 150g lean minced beef  
 1 tomato, diced  
 2 tablespoons store-bought black bean and chipotle salsa  
 2 tablespoons store-bought roasted tomatillo salsa  
 6 tablespoons chopped pickled jalapeño chillies  
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 220g Mexican refried beans  
 420g kidney beans  
 1 large packet good-quality plain or lightly salted corn chips  
 150g grated cheddar cheese  
 1 large avocado, roughly mashed  
 125g sour cream

### Method

**1 PREHEAT** the oven to 200°C (180°C fan-forced). Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat.

Add the onion and fresh jalapeño and cook until the onion is translucent. Add the garlic and cook for a couple more minutes. Add the cumin, chilli powder and paprika, and fry until fragrant and well combined.

**2 INCREASE** the heat to high and add the pork and beef. Use a wooden spoon to break up the meat and cook until the meat is evenly browned. Add the tomato, salsas and 2 tablespoons of the jalapeños. Reduce the heat to medium and cook for several minutes. Season, remove from the heat and set aside.

**3 SPREAD** the refried beans 1cm thick in an ovenproof casserole dish, then spread with a third of the kidney beans. Place the corn chips upright in the bean mix. Sprinkle over the rest of the beans, 2 tablespoons of the jalapeños, then the meat mixture, making sure it falls down the crevices. Sprinkle over the remaining jalapeños, then the cheese. Bake until the cheese melts.

**4 PUT** the mashed avocado on one side of the nachos and the sour cream on the other, then dig in.

**TIP** Take the time to stand each corn chip upright in the beans to avoid soggy nachos. It's worth it. ➤





# FATHER'S DAY

To save time, buy vacuum-packed cleaned mussels and simply tip them in the pot.

Feeds 4

## Mussel soup

### Ingredients

2kg blue mussels  
4 tablespoons unsalted butter  
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
3 red bird's-eye chillies, thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley, plus 10g extra  
250ml dry white wine  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 leeks, white part only, finely chopped  
800g diced tomatoes  
Freshly ground black pepper  
10g chopped basil  
4 pieces lemon rind, finely sliced  
Crusty bread, to serve

### Method

❶ **SCRUB** and debeard the mussels, discarding any with broken shells, then set aside the rest in a colander.

Melt half the butter in a big saucepan over medium-high heat. Add half of the garlic and half of the chilli and fry gently until aromatic, taking care not to burn them. Add the 2 tablespoons of parsley and cook for 2 minutes.

❷ **INCREASE** the heat to high and add the mussels and 125ml of the wine. Cover and cook for several minutes, shaking the pan to encourage the mussels to open. Once you see steam forcing itself out from under the lid, check if all or most of the mussels are open. If so, remove the pan from the heat, pour the contents of the pan into a colander sitting over a bowl to catch all the cooking liquid. Set aside.

❸ **HEAT** the remaining butter and the olive oil over medium heat in the same pan. Add the leek and cook

gently for 5 minutes, then add the remaining garlic and chilli and gently cook for 2-3 minutes or until the garlic is translucent. Increase the heat to high, add the remaining wine and the tomatoes and stir to combine. Strain the cooking liquid through a fine-mesh sieve into the pan. Season with lots of pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes.

❹ **ADD** the extra parsley, basil and lemon rind, allowing the flavours to blend for 5-8 minutes. Add the mussels and stir to get all the broth through them, then cook for 1-2 minutes to heat the mussels through.

❺ **DIVIDE** between four big deep bowls and serve with freshly baked crusty bread and a spoon to slurp up the fantastic broth. ➤





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## FATHER'S DAY

Enjoy this marinated chicken with a fresh garden salad.

Feeds 4

## Beer and herb-marinated chicken

### Ingredients

60ml olive oil  
60ml lemon juice  
125ml good quality craft beer  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
1 red chilli, chopped  
2 spring onions, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon Mexican chilli powder  
¼ teaspoon sugar  
15g chopped basil  
15g chopped flat-leaf parsley  
15g chopped coriander leaves  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1 free-range chicken (about 1.7kg)

### Method

**1 COMBINE** all the ingredients except the chicken in a mixing bowl, then set aside while you prepare the chicken.

**2 CUT** down either side of the backbone of the chicken with kitchen scissors and remove, reserving for making chicken stock. Turn the chicken over so the breast is facing up and use the palms of your hands to press down firmly on the breastbone so it breaks and the chicken is splayed out flat. Use a sharp knife to cut the chicken in half, each with a leg and a breast. Score the flesh four or five times on each half to allow the marinade to get into the meat.

**3 PUT** the chicken in a non-metallic large dish, breast side down, and spoon over some of the marinade, then turn the halves over and pour over the rest of the marinade. Use your hands to rub the herbs over the chicken and into the cuts you made

when you scored the chicken. Leave to marinate in the fridge for at least an hour, spooning the marinade over the chicken every 15 minutes or so.

**4 HEAT** a barbecue grill with a lid for 15 minutes to medium-high. Put the chicken halves on the grill, skin side down, cover, and cook for 10 minutes. Turn over the chicken, cover and cook for a further 10 minutes, spooning over marinade. Turn over the chicken and spoon on more marinade. Reduce the heat to medium and cook for about 10-15 minutes, spooning over more marinade after 10 minutes. Turn over the chicken and cook for 15-20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through, tipping on any remaining marinade.

**5 SERVE** the marinated chicken with the salad of your choice.



## Smoky tomato soup

### Ingredients

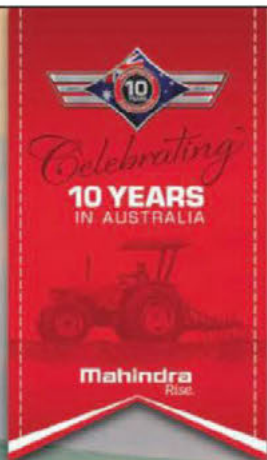
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 brown onion, diced  
1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
3 tablespoons smoked paprika  
1 tablespoon chipotle powder  
2 teaspoons chopped oregano  
1kg ripe tomatoes, cores cut out and roughly chopped  
375ml chicken or vegetable stock  
2 dried bay leaves  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 tablespoon pouring cream  
Toasted baguette with Gruyère cheese, to serve (optional)

### Method

**1 HEAT** the olive oil and butter in a flameproof casserole dish over medium-high heat. Add the onion and fry gently for about 8 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 2 minutes,

then add the paprika, chipotle powder and oregano. Cook for a couple of minutes so the flavours can really combine. Add the tomatoes, increase the heat to high and bring to the boil, then give them a good stir. Add the stock and bay leaves, reduce the heat and simmer gently for about 30 minutes. **2 REMOVE** the soup from the heat. Remove the bay leaves and discard, then season to taste. Use a hand-held blender to blend the soup into a thick, smooth consistency. Add the cream and mix through. Return to the stovetop and heat through before serving. **3 SERVE** the soup with slices of toasted baguette with Gruyère cheese melted on the top, if you like. ●

Feeds 4-6



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# GIFT GUIDE

Head instore to pick up the best present for a handy dad this year

**Q** Find it at Bunnings

## TIDY TIP

For quick access, store screwdrivers by size and type in a PVC pipe drilled with holes attached to the wall.

## WORKSHOP WANTS



Keep Dad's tools organised in the Kincrome Tote Bag, \$49.98.



Fill out Dad's workshop wall with the Hart 55-piece Screwdriver Set, \$49.98.



Lighten the load on your dad's tool belt using the Hart 17-piece Multi-bit Screwdriver Set, \$14.98.

Mark and measure precisely with the Empire 2990M Heavy Duty Metric Rafter Square, \$19.98.



Set things straight with the Empire 2400mm True Blue Level, \$129.



Upgrade sliding doors and outdoor areas with Ezyfit Roller Shutters, \$609.





## FATHER'S DAY



Give the cooking king of your family a brand-new barbecue to man.



Sizzle a steak on the Everdure E260 Portable Hood BBQ, \$439, available in red and black. Includes stand and cover.




Grill up a feast with Dad on the Matador Supernova Six-burner Kitchen, \$2700.



Cook up a storm on the Ardent Four-burner Hooded BBQ, \$139.



# WIN

A man in a dark polo shirt and light shorts is using a pitchfork in a garden. Two chickens are in the background.

**\$550  
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job done, with one powerful battery for 11 different cordless tools.

Ozito is giving away three prize packs, worth over \$550, containing all of the tools pictured above.

To enter, tell us about your dad's best DIY project in 50 words or less.

Entries close 03/09/15. Terms and conditions at [handyman.net.au/ozito](http://handyman.net.au/ozito). See November 2015 issue for winners.


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# ***BOLD DESIGNS***

Decorate your home with a daring mix of vibrant colours, textures and patterns



Add a sense of depth, drama and diversity with an eclectic mix of colours and prints.



## DESIGN TIP

White walls and bare floorboards are an ideal backdrop for a range of eye-catching patterns, all in one space.



Gone are the days of safe, neutral colour schemes and restrained prints and designs in interior spaces.

Bold is now taking centre stage, so take the plunge and use styles, patterns and colours that pop.

An easy way to bring a room to life is to mix throws, rugs and cushions with designs that appear to be competing with each other. The bolder the better.

For a space with depth and drama, use fabrics in different prints, including stripes, leaf patterns and geometric shapes.

Go for yellow, green, pink and blue, adding plush and metallic materials to this riot of colour. ➤





### Think outside the box

For a truly inspiring interior, create a focal point in a high-traffic or communal room, like this incredible mosaic chimney breast in the kitchen.

The intricate patterns blend together beautifully, connecting small and large tiles of different colours, to form an overall design that infuses the neutral room with character.

You could also achieve the same captivating effect in the kitchen by creating a bright and colourful mosaic splashback.



### Go for graphic detail

Wallpaper in fun prints may seem more appropriate for a child's bedroom than a living space, but it can work with the right look.

The white background tones down the busy pattern and prevents it from becoming overbearing.

For added depth, the chair is upholstered in a patterned fabric. This is teamed with a cushion with the same chevron design as the light grey and white table runner.

Greenery adds texture and keeps the space balanced.



★  
Personalise a bedroom  
by putting sentimental,  
quirky or hand-me-down  
collectables on display

To make a pallet bedhead  
DIY, turn to page 98.

### Bring it all together

There's no room that's more enticing than the bedroom in winter. So it's the ideal time to be bold and create a bright and cosy haven indoors.

Play with patterns and textures to add visual interest. This can be achieved with rugs and bedding,

where you can mix and match designs and colours for a rich tapestry effect.

Brighten up the room and add warmth with a feature wall. Here, the yellow pops against the neutral walls.

A rustic upcycled pallet can be used as a bedhead and to display special decorative items. ➤



### Mix and match

Being brave with colours and styles means you can reflect more of your personality in your interior design.

You don't want a fussy background, as this style is all about mixing and matching a range of colourful fabrics and accessories.

Grey walls combined with timber furniture does this very effectively.

Patchwork fabric on the sofa, teamed with mismatched cushions in vibrant colours and patterns, provides a bold sense of individuality.

### DIY TIP

Hang prints and mirrors without banging holes in the walls by using easy-to-remove picture hanging strips.



### Layer the look

A bright green front door, exotic wall art and vibrant fabrics give this space a fun, inviting style, and perfectly complement the neutral walls and wicker furniture.

Borrowing from the trend for layering, and the inclusion

of seemingly clashing colours and prints, the room exudes personality.

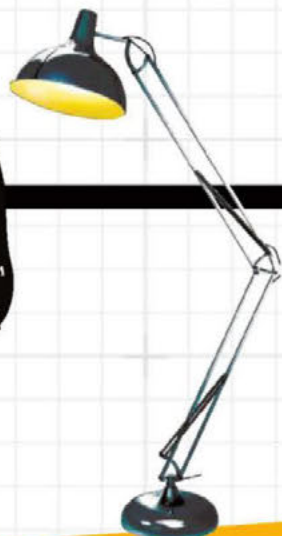
Creating the look around an item you love, such as a cushion, fabric or artwork, is an ideal way of building a layered look like this. Once you have this focus, you can let it influence the tone of the entire space around it. ●



# GET THE LOOK



Target Geo Printed 45 x 45cm Yellow Cushion, \$10. [target.com.au](http://target.com.au)



Arlec 1.9m 60W Saigon Chrome Floor Lamp, \$149. [arlec.com.au](http://arlec.com.au)



Superfresco Easy Virtue Pear Wallpaper, \$50 for 10m. [grahambrown.com](http://grahambrown.com)



PILOT

SPLICE OF LIFE

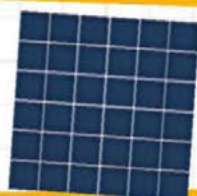
British Paints In One Interior, \$51 for 2L. [britishpaints.com.au](http://britishpaints.com.au)



Chamaedorea Elegans Parlour Palm, 130mm, about \$8, from Bunnings.



Porta Mouldings Meranti Veneer Colonial, from \$4 per linear metre. [porta.com.au](http://porta.com.au)



Cotto Tiles Thaicura Mosaic Dark Blue Tile Sheet, \$5, from Bunnings.

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Before



Before

After

With the gold surface coated with black paint, the table looks more modern.



Replacing the built-in shelf with a freestanding table makes the room appear more spacious



# TABLE UPDATE

Spray painting an ornate table glossy black helped give it a new lease of life

PROJECT AND PICTURES LEE DASHIELL

**G**litzy and dated, this table had a beautiful grey-veined black marble top, but its gold shiny legs distracted from its beauty.

Handyman managing editor Lee Dashiell decided to give it a makeover and move it into his spare bedroom.

To make space for it, a built-in shelf in an alcove was ripped out and the wall patched up and painted.

## SAFETY TIP

Wear a safety mask when preparing surfaces and using spray paint to protect against dust and vapours.

**1 PREPARE** the surface by using a wire brush to remove any flaking paint, dust and cobwebs. Gently sand the metal base with a sanding sponge to remove the gloss coating, which will help the new paint adhere.

**2 APPLY** a coat of primer using a spray paint to help get it into the nooks and crannies. A brush-on paint can be more difficult to use when painting something with an intricate design, like these table legs.

**3 PAINT** the legs with 2-3 top coats of spray paint, using several light smooth sweeps to avoid overspraying. Turn the table upside down to spray the first coat, then turn it right side up to apply the finishing coats.

## WHAT YOU NEED



3M Tekk Protection Painter's Respirator, \$17 for two.  
3mtekk.com.au



Monarch 2.6 x 3.6m Plastic Protection Sheet, \$5.  
austbrush.com.au



White Knight Rust Guard All Purpose Primer, \$15.  
whiteknightpaints.com.au



White Knight Rust Guard Gloss Black Topcoat Epoxy Enamel, \$15.



Uni-Pro Wire Brush with Metal Scraper, \$3.  
unipro.com.au

Keep the fumes at bay by spraying outside instead of in the house.



# PALLET PROJECTS

Upcycle old timber storage platforms into one-of-a-kind designer furniture

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

One of the easiest ways to build furniture with only basic carpentry skills is to make over timber pallets, as they can be turned into just about anything using only a saw and drill.

For these projects, we've turned these versatile building blocks into a rustic bedhead, colourful hanging rack and sleek coffee table.

You can buy pallets new or used in bulk from an online supplier in your state like Plain Pallets in Melbourne ([plainpallets.com.au](http://plainpallets.com.au)) or Direct Pallets in Sydney ([directpallets.com.au](http://directpallets.com.au)).

Another way to source pallets is to check out Gumtree, where they are often given away for free or sold individually for a reasonable price.

To make these projects, you can cut the pallets to size or leave them whole, and the finishes are easily adapted to suit the style of your home. ➤



## EXPERT SECRETS

Use recycled pallets instead of new ones so you can either make rustic furniture or sand back the timber to apply a smooth new painted or stained finish.



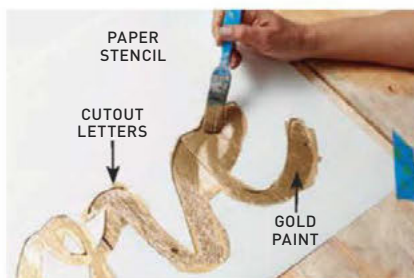
Pallets can be used in almost any room in the house or in the garden to create furniture and oversized wall-hung planter boxes

### 1 2 3



#### 1 Prepare the pallet

Give the pallet a clean if it's very grimy, sanding any rough edges and removing splinters. To retain the rustic look, don't sand the surface. Print a word on A3 paper and tape it to the pallet front. Use a utility knife to cut out the words to create a stencil for painting.



#### 2 Paint the stencil

Pour a little gold paint into a plastic cup and use a narrow brush to apply it to the cutout word. Remove the paper stencil while the paint is still tacky. **TIP** To spray-paint the word instead, cover the rest of the pallet in plastic to protect it from overspray.



#### 3 Finish the bedhead

When the gold paint is dry, outline the word in white acrylic paint using an artist's paintbrush. To secure the bedhead to the wall, attach picture hangers to the back, rated to take its weight, then hang it on heavy-duty masonry or plasterboard wall anchors.



# BEDHEAD



## DIY TIP

A 930 x 670 x 150mm pallet with the panels running vertically makes a good headboard for a 920mm wide single bed.



# HALL RACK



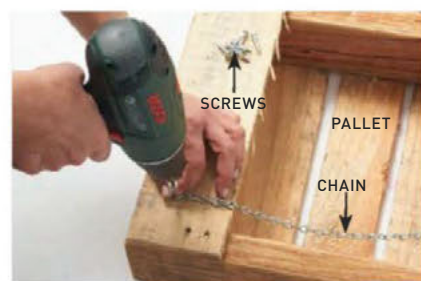
Give a hallway a colour injection and create more storage with a hanging rack made from a pallet.

Hang the rack on its own or position it over a hallway table, cutting the pallet to size to suit.

We used PVC-coated screw hooks in two colours and a few different sizes as the hangers.

Sold as storage and ceiling hooks, they're mostly used for bicycles and garden tools and cost about \$3-5 for a pack of two at hardware stores.

1 2 3



## 1 Prepare the pallet

Cut the pallet down to size and re-nail any panels as necessary for stability. Attach a chain to the back of the pallet using timber screws. Turn the pallet over and sand the front with 150 grit paper so there are no splinters to catch onto scarves, hats or other items.



## 2 Make the hook holes

Paint the front of the pallet in three different colours using a paintbrush, applying 2-3 coats of each. Leave to dry. Measure down from the top of the pallet to mark the screw hook locations. Drill pilot holes for the hooks to prevent the timber splitting.



## 3 Finish the rack

Insert the storage and ceiling hooks into the pre-drilled holes on the front panels and screw firmly into position by hand. Drill into the wall to insert heavy-duty masonry or plasterboard anchors, hanging the pallet rack by the chain on the back. ➤



A decorative rack combines storage and display.

## TIDY TIP

A hanging rack in the front or back hallway keeps lightweight items like keys and scarves easily to hand.

★ Keep horizontal surfaces free of clutter by adding vertical storage in entryways and high-traffic areas



# COFFEE TABLE

## DESIGN TIP

Special effect finishes like chalkboard, metallic and textured paints are a great way to give a DIY piece a high-end look.



Put a coffee table on wheels so you can move it out of the way when cleaning or entertaining





Add a bit of industrial chic to your living room with a coffee table made out of a single timber pallet.

There is no cutting or joining work involved, just give the pallet a new finish and, to make it mobile, add four heavy-duty castors.

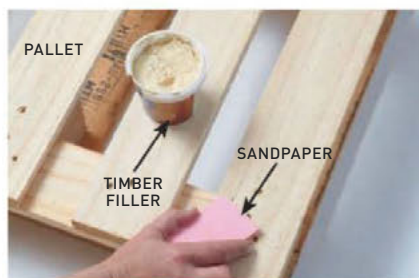
We used chalkboard paint so the coffee table can double as a postmodern noticeboard.

This pallet measures just 880 x 640 x 140mm, but you can use a bigger one or cut a pallet down to make a side table.



Get more pallet projects  
Head to [pinterest.com/DIYhandyman](https://pinterest.com/DIYhandyman)

## 1 2 3



### 1 Prepare the pallet

Clean the pallet and sand the timber with a medium grit paper. Fill any nail holes, cracks or other damage with timber filler, then sand it back flush with the surface when dry.

**TIP** Sand the pallet all over, not just the surface, for a smooth finish.



### 2 Apply the paint

Apply two coats of chalkboard paint to the pallet using a paintbrush, letting it dry in between coats. You don't need to paint the underside.

**TIP** For this project, we used White Knight Chalkboard Paint in Black, \$20 for 500ml ([whiteknightpaints.com.au](http://whiteknightpaints.com.au)).



### 3 Attach the castors

When the paint is completely dry, turn over the pallet and position a castor in each corner to mark the hole positions. Pre-drill to attach the castors to the pallet using the supplied screws. Make sure the castors are heavy-duty and two are lockable. 🍌





## BUDGET TIP

Use inexpensive pine to build the bike rack and seal with marine grade varnish if mounting to an exterior wall.

Find it at Bunnings

# BIKE RACK

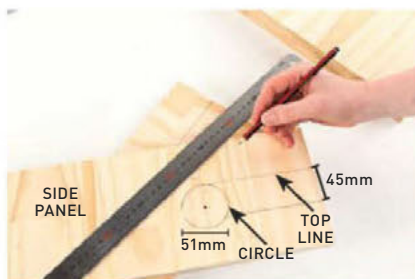
Make a wall-mounted timber box to organise your bicycle and accessories

**K**eeping bikes and cycling gear tidy can be a challenge, especially with more than one cyclist in the family.

This wall-mounted rack keeps your bike out of the way and also provides a home for your helmet and other gear.

The box is made from readily available 18mm laminated pine, using two 450 x 200mm side panels, two 450 x 300mm top and base panels and one 264 x 200mm back panel.

**TIP** Ensure there is enough clearance between the handlebars and the wall by adjusting the depth of the recess.



### 1 Mark the recess

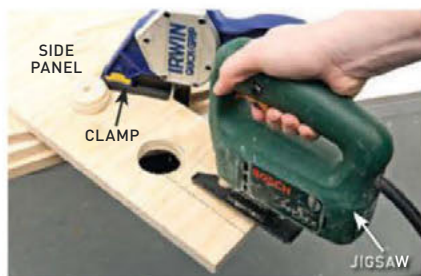
Position a compass 150mm from the front edge and 120mm from the top edge of the side panels to mark a 51mm circle. Mark two lines 45mm apart, with the top line flush with the circle.



### 2 Make the holes

Clamp the panel to a workbench and drill a 4mm pilot hole in the centre of the circle. Use a 51mm hole saw and a power drill to cut out the circle, starting slow and increasing the speed.





### 3 Cut the recess

Use a jigsaw to cut along the lines to create the recess in the side panels. Tidy up the edges using 120 grit sandpaper.  
**TIP** Clamp an offcut to the panel to use as a guide to help cut a straight line.



### 4 Assemble the box

Pre-drill four holes along all the edges of the top and base panels, except the front. Use 10g x 30mm countersunk head timber screws to join the panels, securing one side panel after mounting.



### 5 Mount the rack

Drill three holes in the back panel, then locate a wall stud using a stud finder. Attach the rack to the stud with 10g x 75mm countersunk head screws. Use masonry anchors for brick walls.



## DESIGN TIP

To integrate the space, use the same timber to build the deck, fence and table, and to edge the garden beds.

### After

With rendered brickwork and a new deck, this space is now warm and welcoming.





# FROM STARK TO SUPERB

Simple strategies turn this bare backyard patio into a cosy entertaining space

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER



Whenever I see a brick exterior, I immediately want to reach for the trowel and render. And I'm afraid that white brick tops my list of pet hates, so that's the first obvious fix I'll be making here.

While updating the exterior and fixing the scrappy lawn alone would make the world of difference to this circa '70s eyesore, I have far more ambitious plans in mind.

## The reno challenge

A lack of regular maintenance and the family dog having had the run of the backyard has caused the lawn to become patchy and worn.

Before I add, I definitely need to subtract. Out goes all the garden rubbish. There's nothing that makes a property feel more unloved and uninviting than a lot of clutter about the place.

Replacing the lawn, adding plants and installing a deck will turn this yard into a place the whole family can enjoy, not just the dog.

Comfortable outdoor furniture and an exterior breakfast bar with a built-in barbecue completes the space. ➤

## FREE VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

Cherie Barber is the owner of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to *Handyman* readers in need of renovation inspiration.

Send us a photo and description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a free makeover.

To upload your photos, go to [handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover](http://handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover).



# SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

## 1 RENDER THE WALLS

For the flat, textured beauty of render, which will hide the white brick walls and modernise the exterior, I'm choosing the soft tones of Dulux Crust.

The render will go well with the dark roof and will cover all the brickwork, including the raised garden beds.



Rockcote PM100 Q Render, \$17 for 20kg.  
rockcote.com.au

## 4 REPLACE THE LAWN

Normally, I'd suggest a dose of fertiliser to spruce up a lawn, but with its gaping bald patches, this one is too far gone.

New turf provides an instant impact and makes the whole backyard much more appealing.



Sir Walter Buffalo Turf, about \$9 per sqm.  
sirwalter.com.au

## 2 PAINT THE SPACE

You need a streamlined colour scheme or things can start to look very busy and disjointed.

So I'm going to paint the Colorbond side fence the same colour as the eaves.

The ceiling needs a coat of white paint, which I'll also use for the new architraves around the sliding door and windows.



Dulux Roof & Trim Deep Ocean Exterior Paint, \$199 for 10L. [dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au)

## 5 ADD SPOT LIGHTING

The barbecue area needs illuminating so the chef can see what's cooking.

Wall lights either side of the sliding doors will provide a gorgeous soft glow for those balmy evenings when the party spills out onto the new deck.

Affordable wall art helps to bring a nice designer touch.



Arlec Marine Grade Stainless Steel Up Down Wall Light, \$40. [arlec.com.au](http://arlec.com.au)

## 3 CREATE A LIVING AREA

All those grey tones need warming up, and merbau timber will do the trick.

This means the patio can be extended a metre to create an expansive deck, with timber slats on the ceiling defining the entry.

A built-in barbecue and table, plus all-weather furniture, will make it an ideal entertaining space.



Matador Boss Six-burner Built-in BBQ, \$799.  
[matadorbbqs.com.au](http://matadorbbqs.com.au)

## 6 REVAMP THE GARDEN

The empty garden bed will be planted with colourful, glossy-leafed low-maintenance plants to green up the area.

Laying timber edging in front of the existing bed creates a second layer that will finish off the landscaping while adding depth to the garden.

Golden Cane Palm, 200mm, about \$20, from Bunnings.

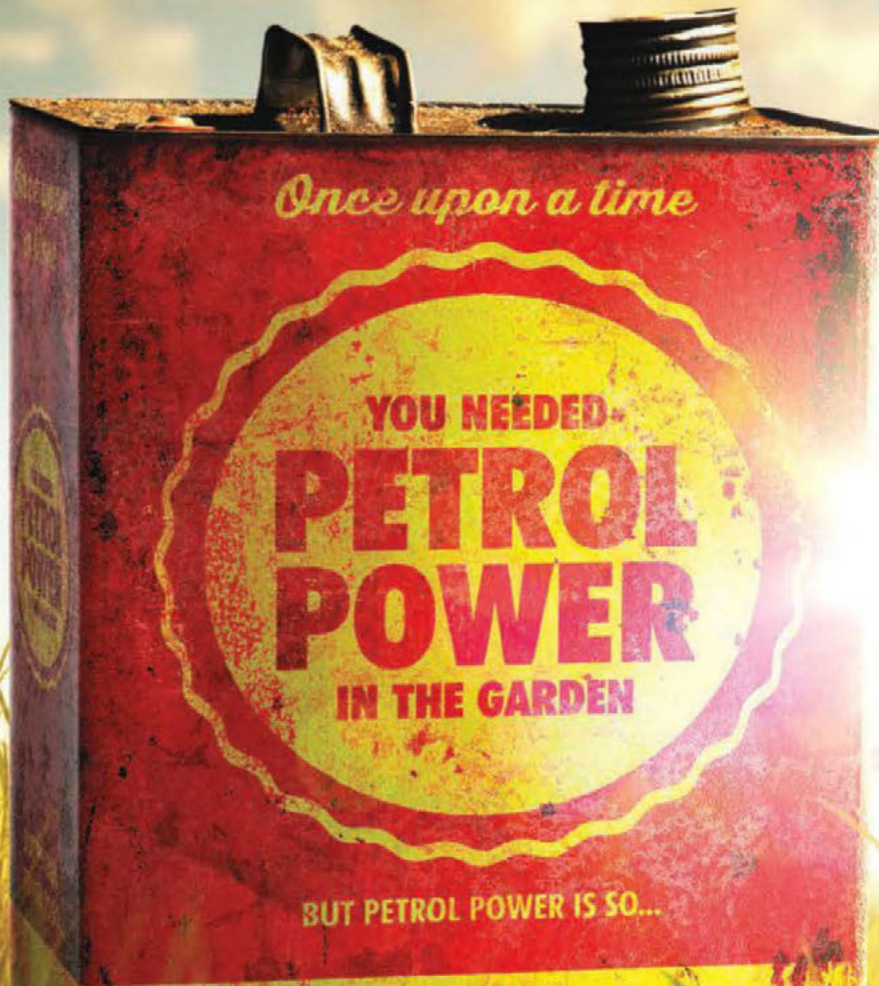


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# EASY DIY TILING

Create a welcoming entrance in only a weekend by laying a new tile floor

PROJECT AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Tape measure
- Marking pencil
- Short spirit level
- Tiles and tile spacers
- Tile cement
- Notched trowel
- Mixing bucket
- Mixing paddle fitted to suitable power drill
- Tile cutter or angle grinder
- Grout
- Grout squeegee
- Cleaning acid
- Scrubbing brush
- Cleaning sponges

**H**as your front entrance become tired or dated? If so, it might mean your home lacks kerb appeal, but fortunately this can be easily fixed.

Tiling is a quick DIY solution that makes a huge improvement to your home and can be done in a weekend, for just a few hundred dollars.

Even if you've never tiled before, you should find the process quick, cost-effective and pretty simple.

And once you've completed your first project, the chances are you'll be champing at the bit to move on to another tiling job as soon as possible.

### Stay safe

Outdoor tiles need to be slip resistant and should have a slip-resistance rating, which is expressed as an R rating.

We used tiles with a rating of R10, which is a safe minimum for level outdoor situations or areas with a slight incline, from 10-19°.

For a higher slip-resistance, or for steep sloping areas, select an R11 or even an R12 rated tile. When in doubt, ask at your local hardware store for advice. ➤

### DIY TIP

Order about 10% more tiles than are needed for the area you are tiling to allow enough for cuts and breakages.

### ADAM'S PICKS



DTA 330mm Ishii Professional Clinker Tile Cutter, \$98. [dta-us.com.au](http://dta-us.com.au)



Davco Professional Ultraflex Ceramic Tile Adhesive, about \$40 for 20kg. [parexdavco.com.au](http://parexdavco.com.au)



QEP 8mm Square Notch Professional Trowel, \$14. [qep.com](http://qep.com)

### Before





## After

Tiling over the bare concrete has transformed the porch space.

All tiles used in outdoor areas must have a slip-resistance rating.



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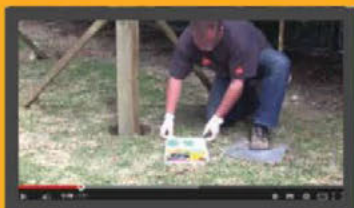


# Sika® Post Fix

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For further product demonstration scan code or visit [aus.sika.com](http://aus.sika.com)

**BUILDING TRUST**





## Tile it right

When calculating the overhang of tiles on the edge of a step, allow for the thickness of the tile that will be used as a kick-plate on the riser, the bed of tile cement beneath it and any overhang for a drip-lip.

So for a 5mm finished drip-lip, your overhang will be around 20mm or more, before fitting the riser tile.

Attach a diamond blade to your angle grinder so you can fit the tiles around small or difficult corners.

Before you begin cutting, ensure you're using the correct blade type for your particular tile material. ➤



**ABOVE** For difficult spots, use painter's tape to hold tiles as the adhesive sets.

**BELOW** Fit exterior trim where the tiles meet the wall to hide any unsightly joints.



The timber step was sanded back and finished with decking oil.

## CLEAN FINISH

The final clean of your tiles and grout is done using cleaning acid.

To do this, you should check the suitability of your tiles first by testing the acid on an offcut. Using acid will remove any powdery grout or tile-adhesive residue from the surfaces.

Ensure you wear appropriate safety equipment, including eye protection, chemical-resistant gloves and a simple respirator suitable for fumes, when mixing and applying acid.



Get rid of powdery grout or excess residue by cleaning the newly laid tiles with diluted acid



# LAY THE TILES



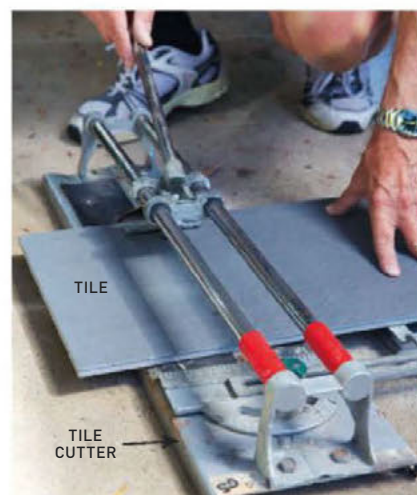
## 1 Clean the surface

Make sure the surface to be tiled is clean. Begin by sweeping the area with a stiff brush to clear away any leaves or other loose material. If tiling over concrete, use a pressure cleaner. Spray the surface thoroughly with water, removing any stubborn patches of dirt in corners and cracks.



## 2 Choose the layout

Mark out the area, experimenting with the layout of the tiles, then check for square and work out the cuts. If you have a step and want a full tile with a 5mm drip-lip at the step end, as in this project, measure the tiles for the wall end first, then gradually work out from the wall and towards the step.



## 3 Cut the tiles

Position and measure the tiles, then make any necessary cuts. Use a tile cutter for this, making sure it has the right capacity for your tile size and the correct cutting wheels for the tile type. **TIP** We decided to use large-format 600 x 300mm tiles and ran them crossways to make the space feel larger.



## 4 Lay the tiles

Mix the tile adhesive in small batches using a heavy-duty 20L bucket and blending the adhesive thoroughly with a mixing paddle fitted to a corded drill. Spread the adhesive over small areas at a time using a notched trowel, then lay the tiles starting from an edge or a corner, working outwards.




## 5 Add the spacers

As you lay the tiles, insert spacers near the corners, leaving them upright so they can be easily removed when the adhesive has cured. The spacers will ensure you get perfectly consistent spacing between the tiles. Once the adhesive has cured enough to walk on the tiles, remove the spacers.



## 6 Grout the tiles

Mix small batches of grout at a time, using the grout squeegee to push it into the cracks. When it starts to set, remove the excess grout with a damp sponge. Once the adhesive is fully cured, use diluted acid to wash off any powdery grout on the surface of the tiles. Test the acid on an offcut first. 



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# GARAGE FIT-OUT

Sort out this multifunctional area with easy-to-implement storage systems

The average family garage is often a messy dumping ground for tools, sports gear, gardening equipment and old toys, leaving no room for a car or projects.

Building a custom storage system to clear the clutter and free up space for the perfect DIY cave is simple.

For a functional work space, select a durable workbench and pick out accessories, such as a pegboard, to hang hand tools within easy reach so the bench is clear for use.

## TIDY TIP

Organise spare parts in a drawer by using plastic containers and labelling the hardware, sizes and finishes on each.



Reclaim the floorspace in your garage by adding drawers and cupboards.





Romak Compact Garage Workbench, \$89.

Handy Storage Boltless Five-shelf Unit, \$78.

Qiq Fix Two-door Four-shelf Grey Metal Garage Cabinet, \$174.

### Safe and secure

A metal garage storage system is a fantastic way to keep power tools and chemicals secure, while creating a work space for DIY projects. The stylish, functional Ultimate range offers shelves, cabinets and drawers.

Shelving is an essential part of any organised garage. A five-tier system utilises vertical space while leaving plenty of room in a single or double garage for a car. Add tall cabinets for lockable storage space.



Invest in a sturdy roll out cabinet with drawers to keep small items like tape measures within reach



Ultimate Storage Two-door Under Bench Tool Chest, \$299.



Ultimate Storage Tall Cabinet, \$449.



Ultimate Storage Five-drawer Under Bench Tool Chest, \$349.



Ultimate Storage Garage Workbench, \$399.





## SAFETY TIP

Always ensure the gear you select displays an Australian Standard label and is appropriate for your needs.

# PLAY IT SAFE

Eliminate injuries when doing DIY by using the right protective gear

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAM

**M**aking improvements around the home or garden is often fun and rewarding, but many jobs can also carry their own risks.

If you don't wear the right safety equipment, you could end up at your local hospital or, worse still, with long-term adverse effects, such as hearing loss or lung damage.

These days, the things you need to keep you protected are very accessible, reasonably priced and, from eyewear to gloves, surprisingly comfortable.

Here's our quick guide to using the best protective gear for the job.



## SHIELD YOUR EYES

It's said by some that eyelids have the fastest reflexes in the human body, but when using power tools, this blink reflex still won't be nearly fast enough.

Safety glasses and goggles are like armour for your eyes, protecting them against everything from the abrasive dust churned up by a sander to stone chips flying off an angle grinder.

It is important that you choose the right glasses for the job you're doing. As impact ratings vary, take the time to select the correct pair, ensuring they have suitable UV protection. ➤



Eye protection is essential, as modern power tools and their high-speed projectiles are faster than inbuilt reflexes



UV Wraps Single Lens Safety Glasses, \$14. [uvwraps.com.au](http://uvwraps.com.au)





## ADAM'S STORY



August 23-29 marks Hearing Awareness Week here in Australia ([hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://hearingawarenessweek.org.au)), so I thought I'd share a personal story.

It started one day after a hearing test when my audiologist explained to me that I had progressive hearing loss.

The reason for hearing loss can be anything from exposure to loud noises and music to concussion, various viral infections, genetics and ageing.

'It's probably time to start thinking about getting a hearing aid,' he said.

A hearing aid? I thought. I'm not even 50! But in the end, I took his advice.

Yes, it was a big decision, but I can't begin to tell you what it's like to hear, for the first time, the full vocal range of my daughter singing, or to have a chat in a loud pub without any problems.

So if you know you're having trouble hearing, talk with your GP and undergo a hearing test sooner rather than later.

**ABOVE** Protector Banded Earplugs, \$7. [protectorsafe.com.au](http://protectorsafe.com.au)  
**RIGHT** 3M Tekk Protection Reusable Corded Earplugs, \$8. [3mtekk.com.au](http://3mtekk.com.au)

A surprising one in six Australians suffer from hearing loss, but only 10-20% of these people actually wear hearing aids

**UniSafe Zone 3 Headband Earmuff, \$34. [scottsafety.com](http://scottsafety.com)**





## PROTECT YOUR LUNGS

It's easy to dismiss the dust produced when sanding or grinding as being little more than a nuisance, but it can lead to some nasty long-term health problems, such as silicosis.

In the short term, dust can also trigger asthma and allergic reactions.

You should also stop to consider the chemical contamination risks before sanding old lead-based paints, and when working with paints and other chemicals in general. ➤



Dust from sanding and grinding can cause lung diseases



### HEALTH TIP

Even the best breathing protection can't make up for a lack of oxygen, so always keep work spaces well ventilated.

- ① Protector Half-Face Single Filter Respirator, \$35. [protectoralsafe.com.au](http://protectoralsafe.com.au)
- ② 3M Tekk Lawn & Garden Respirator, about \$6 for two. [3mtekk.com.au](http://3mtekk.com.au)
- ③ Protector Ultimate Carbon Disposable Respirator, \$10 for two.

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Safety Zone Large Work Tuff Premium Leather Gloves, \$6. [safetyzone.com.au](http://safetyzone.com.au)

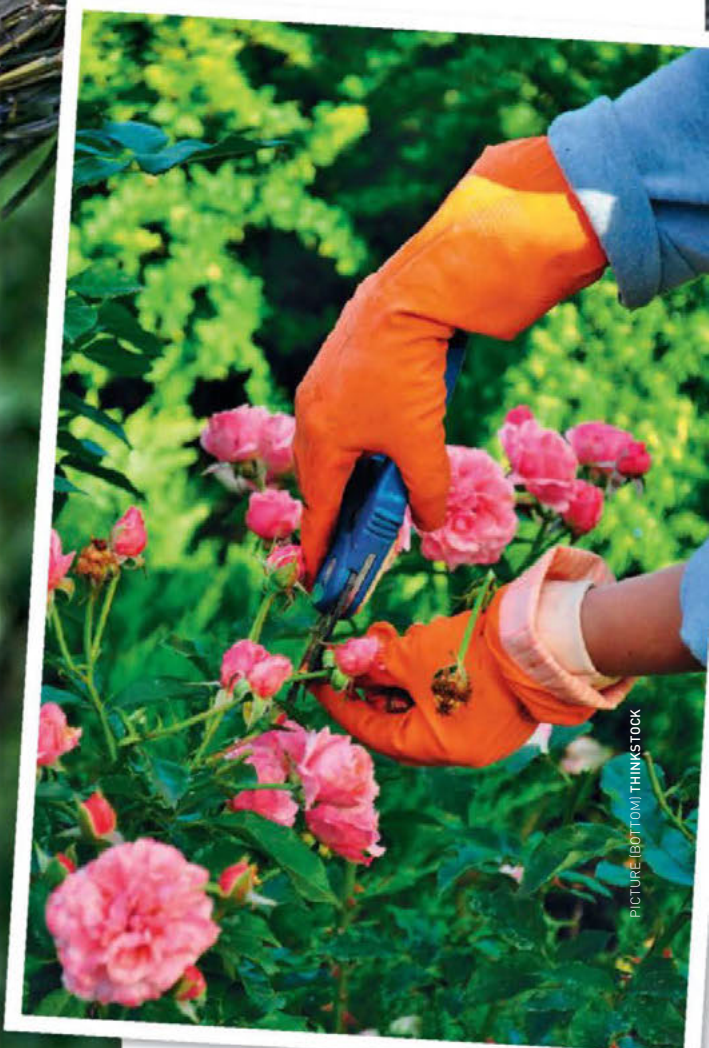
## COVER YOUR HANDS

In the garden or the workshop, hand protection should be a no-brainer. The right gloves will protect you from splinters, cuts, abrasions and bumps, as well as annoying and occasionally painful problems like blisters.

For comfort, protection and durability, it's hard to go past the classic rigger-style cowhide gloves.



When handling weedkiller, fertiliser or pool chlorine, wear chemical-resistant, long-gauntlet gloves





Rossi Elastic-sided Kip Work Boots, \$89. [rossiboots.com.au](http://rossiboots.com.au)

## DIY TIP

If you're doing heavy-duty jobs in the home or garden, give your feet extra protection by buying boots with steel toecaps.

## DEFEND YOUR FEET

In reality, it's pretty easy to have a nasty accident when you're DIYing, leaving you with, at best, bruised toes.

A good pair of leather boots will protect your feet when mowing and edging the lawn, and handling materials like bricks and rock. They'll also help you avoid puncture injuries from nails sticking out of timber.

They're the best choice in wet and muddy conditions as well, where they'll give you the traction to stay upright. 🌧️

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## Do now

- GIVE the winter lawn TLC and prepare it for spring, page 132.
- RAISE fruit trees in a small garden, courtyard or on a balcony, page 138.
- LEARN foolproof pruning techniques for a healthy garden, page 144.

# This month

Finish off winter jobs and get the garden ready for the new season

## Flowers to sow

Plant now for late-spring colour, but wait until next month in cold zones.

- EVERLASTING DAISY
- NASTURTIUM
- AGERATUM
- CELOSIA
- GAZANIA

Gazania



## Vegies to grow

Get these in the ground for fresh food from mid spring onwards.

- RHUBARB CROWNS
- SPRING ONIONS
- CABBAGES
- CARROTS
- LETTUCES

Rhubarb





## WHAT'S IN COLOUR

A fantastic landscaping plant in both big or small gardens, low-maintenance Rosemary 'Irene' features aromatic foliage and blue-violet flowers, and blooms profusely in midwinter.

A trailing form of rosemary, it has a low mounding habit and each plant covers an area of 1750 x 1750mm.

Use it to cascade over walls and in hanging baskets. It is also excellent mass-planted as a groundcover.

Dry tolerant and disease resistant, plant 'Irene' in full sun in well-drained soil, use a slow-release fertiliser and prune to shape after flowering.

Rosemary 'Irene'

## BOOK CLUB



Butterflies are welcome visitors in any garden, and Australia is home to many beautiful species.

For tips on how to plant your backyard to attract butterflies, read *All About Butterflies of Australia* by Garry Sankowsky (\$30, New Holland).

This stunningly photographed book also explores their amazing life cycle from egg, caterpillar and chrysalis to winged adult.



## To-do list

Get the winter garden in shape.

- ✓ **PROTECT** tender plants like frangipani from late frosts.
- ✓ **TAKE** cuttings or pinch back leggy container plants.
- ✓ **PREPARE** beds for sowing summer annuals and bulbs.
- ✓ **CHECK** for aphids on new rose shoots and hose them off.
- ✓ **MOW** the lawn and dig up or spray weeds. ➤



## HOW TO

MAINTAIN  
A NO-DIG BED

A raised garden bed is a great environment to grow vegetables and herbs, as you can fill it with rich soil and keep on top of weeds. It's also easy to improve the bed for each season's plantings. Here's how to prepare a no-dig bed in time for spring seedlings.

1 2

**1 Mulch the surface**

Add well-rotted organic matter to a depth of 100mm to keep the soil fertile. Deep mulching helps to reduce moisture loss, keep the soil warmer and suppress the germination of weed seeds, extending the growing season.

**2 Plant the bed**

When it's time to plant, scrape back the mulch to expose the soil surface and replace it afterwards, keeping it clear of young stems. The bed edging helps to retain the mulch layer until it rots down.

REVIVE  
OUTDOOR  
TIMBER

The sun, wind and rain combine to weather outdoor furniture, leaving it grey, but it's easily rejuvenated.

Simply give timber a clean, then apply a new finish using a coating like Sikkens Cetol, which comes in nine pigmented colours, to protect it from moisture and damaging UV light.

Sikkens Cetol HLSe,  
\$26 for 500ml.  
[sikkens.net.au](http://sikkens.net.au)



## Feed now

This is the time to give fruits and vegies a boost.

- BANANAS
- VEGETABLES
- CITRUS
- GUAVAS
- LAWNS



## Prune now

Cut back trees and plants that have finished fruiting.

- PINEAPPLES
- BERRIES
- TAMARILLOS
- APPLES
- PEARS



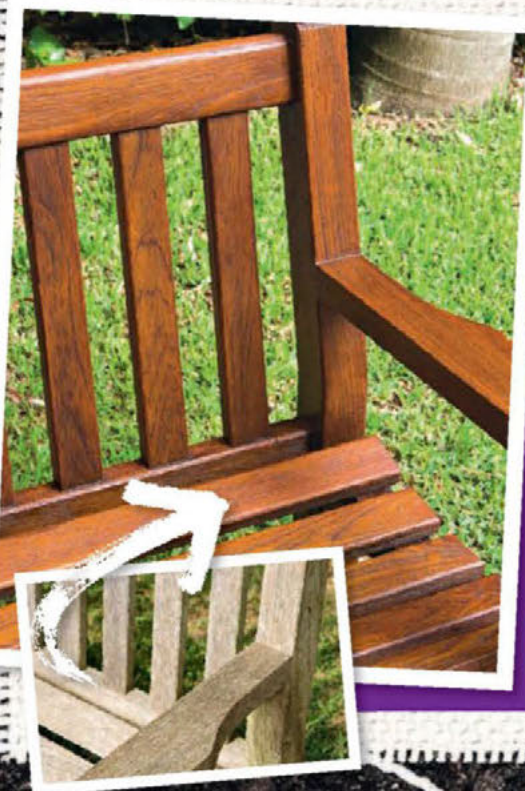
## Harvest now

Pick citrus and tropical fruits that are in season.

- MANDARINS
- GRAPEFRUIT
- KIWIFRUIT
- BANANAS
- LEMONS



PICTURES (RIGHT TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM) THINKSTOCK





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# EASY WINTER LAWN CARE

Give your grass TLC during the cooler months so it will look lush and green come spring

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

**C**ool weather, shorter days and less sunlight. For your favourite patch of green, winter offers a recipe for disaster.

It's true that most lawns take a beating in the colder seasons, but there are a few simple things you can do to ensure yours stays healthy, and ready to surge back to life in the spring.

Here are our simple tips for winter lawn success.



Adam

## EXPERT SECRETS

To keep the lawn healthy and encourage fresh growth, use a metal rake to remove older grass and thatch.



## DIY TIP

When it comes to how short to cut the grass at any time of year, think Goldilocks. Not too short, not too long, but just right.



## OW

For years, the advice was to cut the grass at a certain height to suit the time of the year. So what is the right height?

Most lawns are warm-season varieties, meaning they grow quicker when the temperature is higher and slower during the cooler months.

As such, you'll only need to mow about once a month in the winter.

➤ **THE RIGHT HEIGHT** A rule of thumb is that grass should feel comfortable under bare feet, as the lawn needs sufficient leaf blades to achieve effective photosynthesis.

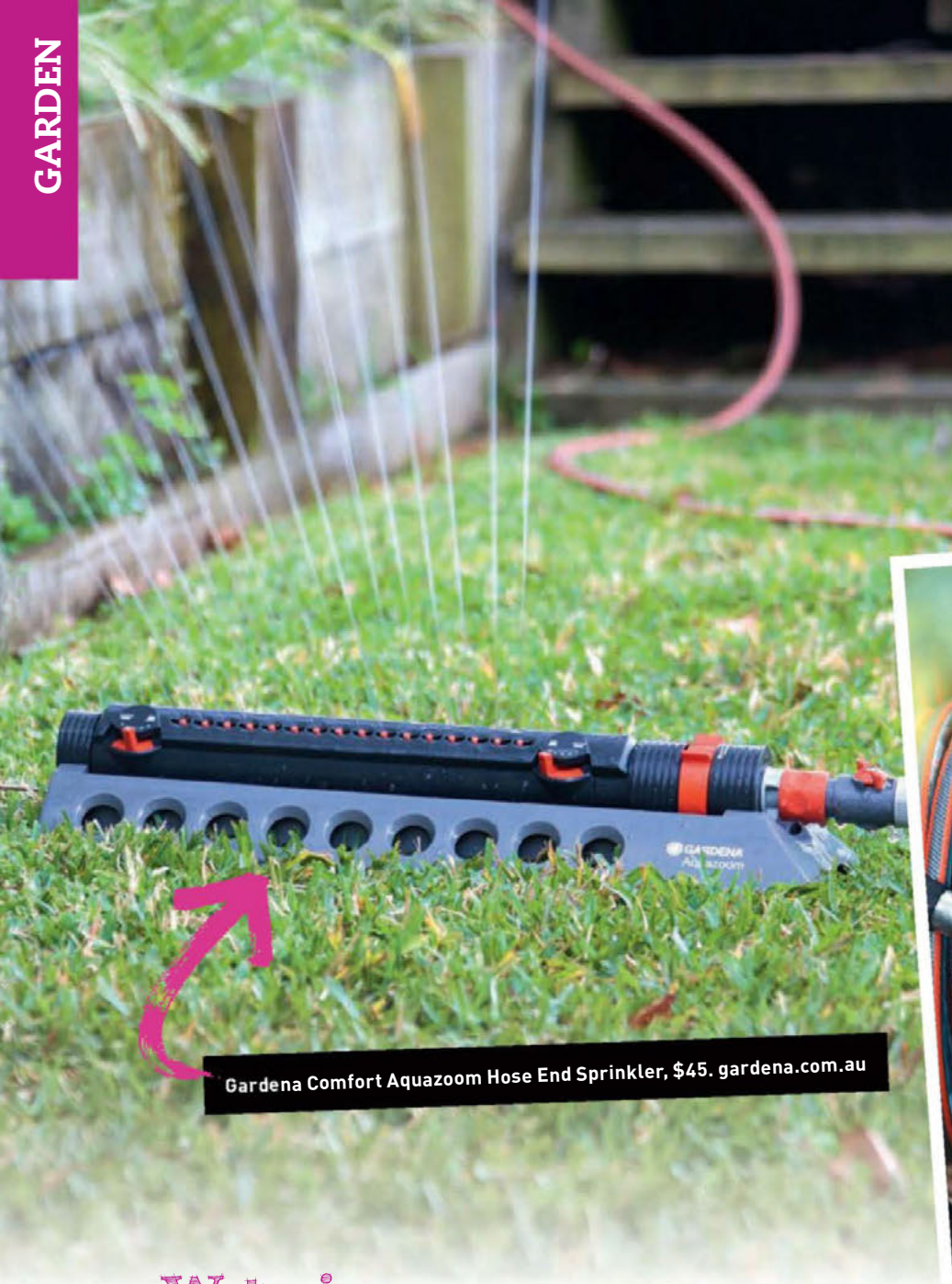
If you cut it too short, it is likely to be weakened, while leaving it too long may cause fungal problems, so finding a happy medium is best. ➤

## Catch don't mulch

A mulching mower creates very fine pieces of cut grass that provide organic nutrients for the lawn and soil.

But, while this benefits the lawn in spring and summer, the mulch won't break down as fast in the cool months, resulting in fungal disorders. So switch the mower from mulch to catch in winter.





Gardena Comfort Aquazoom Hose End Sprinkler, \$45. [gardena.com.au](http://gardena.com.au)

## Watering

Perhaps the most difficult part of lawn care in the cooler months is watering. It can be easily forgotten, or else done too much or too little. There are a few key steps to getting it right.

✚ **WATER WISELY** You need to ensure that you don't overdo the watering in winter, as wet grass and soil can take a long time to dry out.

If the lawn stays wet for periods of time, you're likely to end up with fungal problems and boggy spots.

Remember as well that moisture retention varies greatly by soil type. Sandy soil will shed water much

faster than clay-based soil, which may stay damp for weeks.

✚ **TIME IT RIGHT** It is essential you get the frequency of your watering correct, as well as the time of day you do it.

Good practice year-round is to only water in the morning, and this becomes critical in winter, as you don't want the lawn sitting wet overnight.

Reduce how much you water the lawn by at least half at this time of the year, in both duration and frequency, especially if it is done by an irrigation system. You may even find a monthly watering is all that is required.



Water in the morning rather than later in the day so you don't leave damp patches overnight, avoiding fungal problems

**BELOW** If you run an irrigation system controlled by a computerised timer, change the settings to suit the season.



### Save on water

To manage your watering most efficiently, use an adjustable oscillating sprinkler.

This will ensure that the water is only reaching the areas that need it, regulating the amount of water used and avoiding wastage.

You can also adjust the distance and pattern of the spray to suit virtually any situation.





It is now recommended to feed your lawn in autumn and winter.

## Feeding

Traditionally, lawns were only fed in spring and summer but now, thanks to new fertiliser technology, it's common to feed them year-round. This will vary depending on your region, so ask a local lawn specialist for advice.

Feeding your lawn in winter keeps it growing, albeit slowly, and makes it well prepared to compete with weeds. It also makes it better able to recover from cold conditions and damage.

✦ **FEED IT WELL** Applying a hose-on seaweed tonic in place of the normal watering is also very useful.

In doing this, you will be feeding the soil directly, keeping beneficial bacteria populations happy and active and making sure nutrients are readily available for the lawn.

You can use a hydrating product as well, which will aid water penetration and rejuvenate the soil. ➤

## ADAM'S PICKS



Seasol Ready To Spray  
Lawn Fertiliser Twin Pack,  
about \$19 for 2L. [seasol.com.au](http://seasol.com.au)



Eco Organic Garden  
Eco-Hydrate, \$19 for 500ml.  
[ecoorganicgarden.com.au](http://ecoorganicgarden.com.au)

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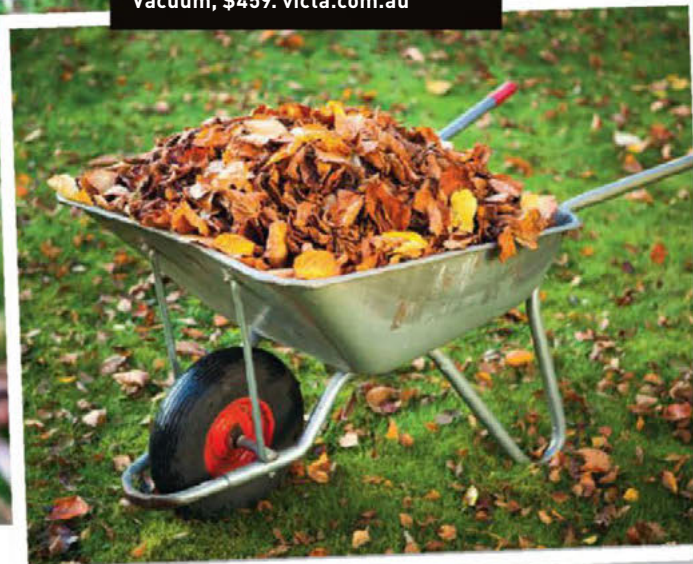




Fallen leaves can build up, so take a rake to them as often as possible.



**ABOVE** For a quiet and efficient way to get leaves off the lawn, use the Victa 40V V-Force+ Blower and Vacuum, \$459. [victa.com.au](http://victa.com.au)



## Raking

Maximising the amount of sunlight your lawn receives in winter is critical to keeping it healthy. With shorter daylight hours and a lower intensity of sunlight, virtually every minute of exposure makes a difference.

✦ **KEEP IT TIDY** Give yourself a winter warm-up by getting out the rake and keeping leaves and twigs off the lawn.

These can build up very quickly, especially after windy weather, and

this can greatly reduce the amount of sunlight that reaches your lawn.


✦ **LET IN LIGHT** After strong growth in the warm months, a host of plants may have started casting shade over parts of your lawn.

Prune back any offending plants to an appropriate degree, with the aim of both maximising the sunlight reaching your lawn and shaping the plants to keep them healthy and tidy.



Keep plants and trees well pruned in the winter months so that as much sunlight as possible can reach the lawn





To avoid bare patches, don't let weeds take hold in winter.

## Weeding

Just because grass growth slows down in winter doesn't mean that weeds take a rest. In fact, there are a number of annual weeds that bolt ahead when the temperature cools down.

Certain weeds cause dead patches by smothering the lawn and, as they're annuals, leave bare spots when they die back. Others, like bindii, grow in cool conditions, so they need removing before reaching maturity in spring.

✦ **REMOVE THE WEEDS** Keeping your lawn well fed can help to win the weed war, as your lawn may be able to out-compete certain weeds. But removal or treatment of the offending plants is always going to be the most effective option.

It is often best to get rid of larger weeds manually using a daisy grubber or high-tech weed extraction tool.

✦ **SPRAY THE LAWN** There are also a host of chemical options available, but it's crucial that the product is suitable for the time of year, as well as the right one for your lawn type and the weeds you're killing. ✦



Ask at your local garden centre about the right weed treatment for your grass.



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[gardena.com](https://gardena.com)



# Fruit trees for small spaces

Want to grow your own fruit but don't have a big backyard?  
There are lots of miniature fruit trees that thrive in pots

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

✱  
There are lots of fruit trees cultivated to suit tiny spaces, without compromising on the quality or yield



Our society is on the move. Baby boomers are downsizing at a considerable rate and young people are embracing urban apartment and terrace house living.

But you can still grow fruit, as there are trees that can be cultivated in pots. And if you plant now, you'll be picking your own fruit next summer.

There is a great range of dwarf trees to choose from and, while scaled down in size, all new-generation dwarf trees yield full-sized fruit. ➤



Cheryl

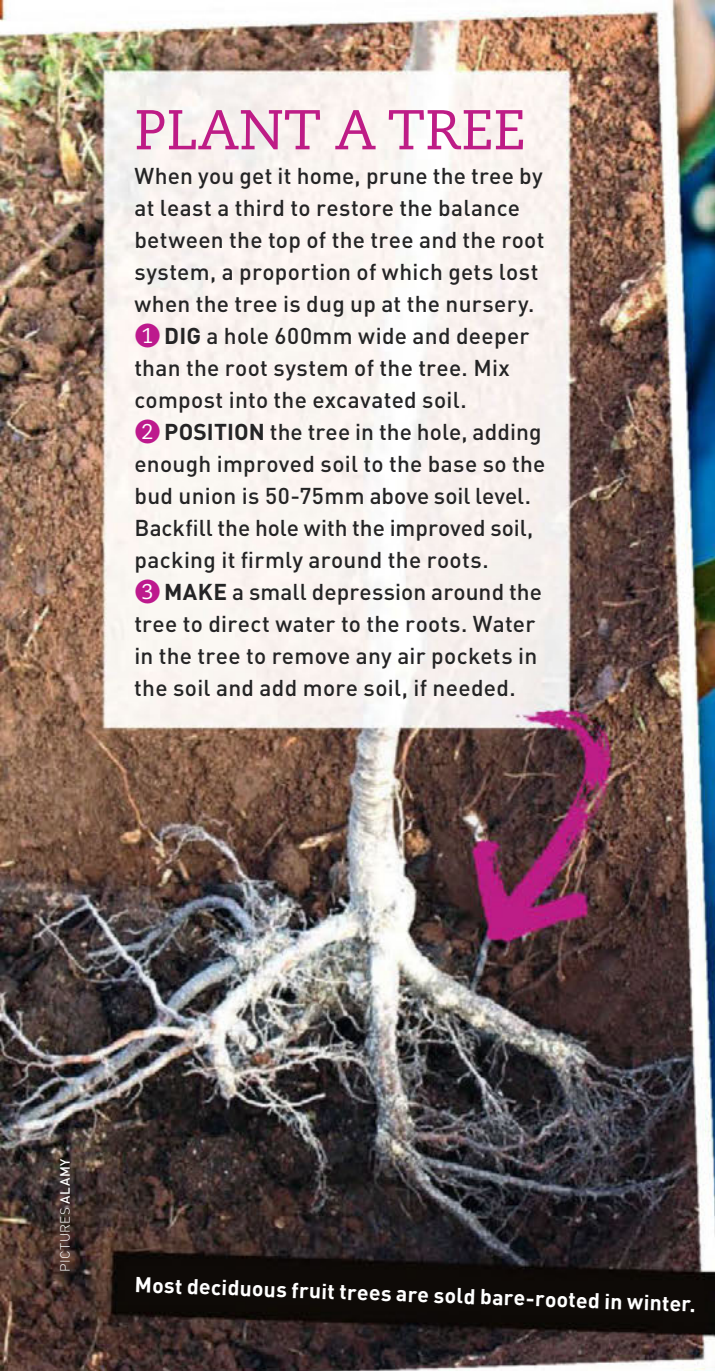
## EXPERT SECRETS

When you're growing fruit trees in pots, choose a premium potting mix that carries the Australian Standards label.

## PLANT A TREE

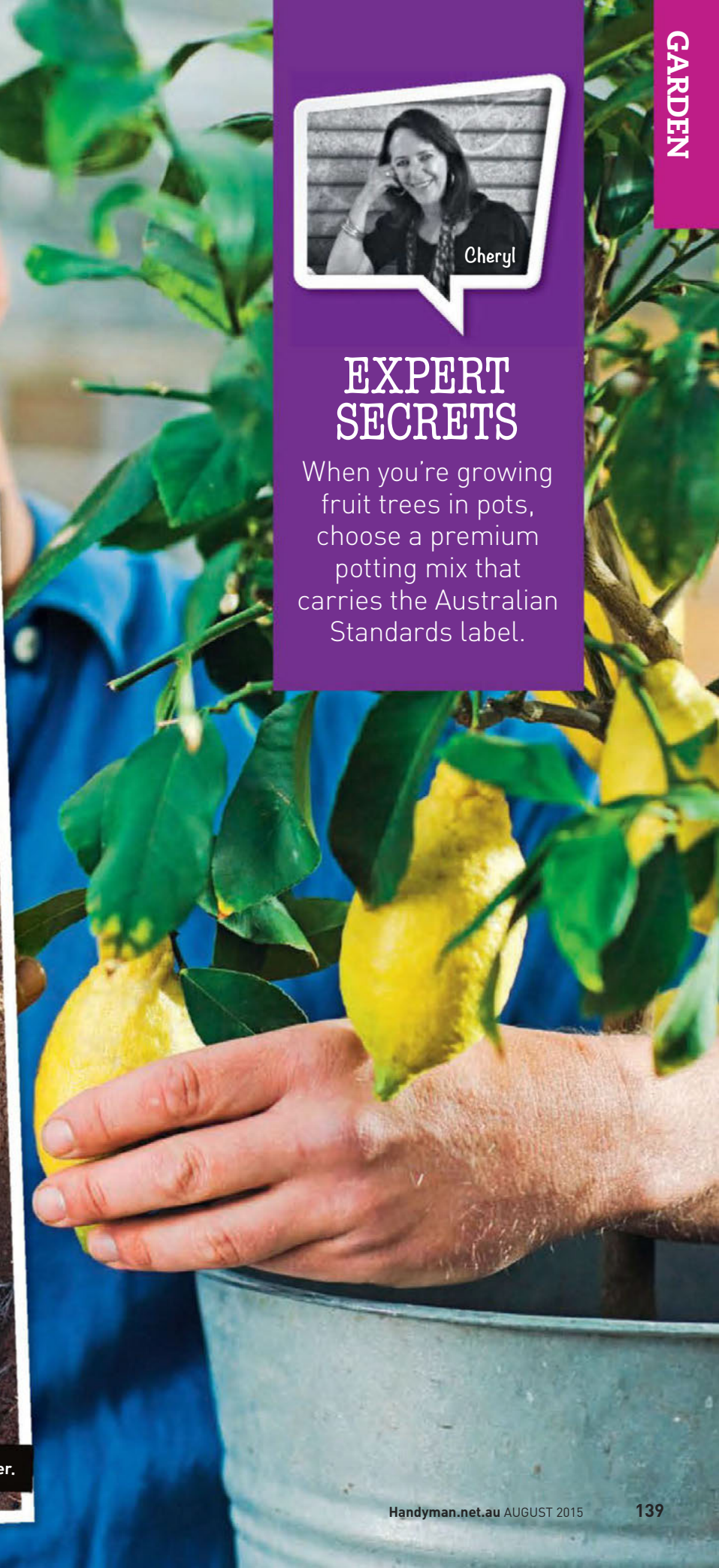
When you get it home, prune the tree by at least a third to restore the balance between the top of the tree and the root system, a proportion of which gets lost when the tree is dug up at the nursery.

- ➊ **DIG** a hole 600mm wide and deeper than the root system of the tree. Mix compost into the excavated soil.
- ➋ **POSITION** the tree in the hole, adding enough improved soil to the base so the bud union is 50-75mm above soil level. Backfill the hole with the improved soil, packing it firmly around the roots.
- ➌ **MAKE** a small depression around the tree to direct water to the roots. Water in the tree to remove any air pockets in the soil and add more soil, if needed.



PICTURES ALAMY

Most deciduous fruit trees are sold bare-rooted in winter.





## HOW TO GROW

Plant deciduous fruit trees like apple, pear, nectarine and peach in winter, and evergreen trees such as citrus and avocado at any time of the year. In frosty areas, plant citrus in spring.

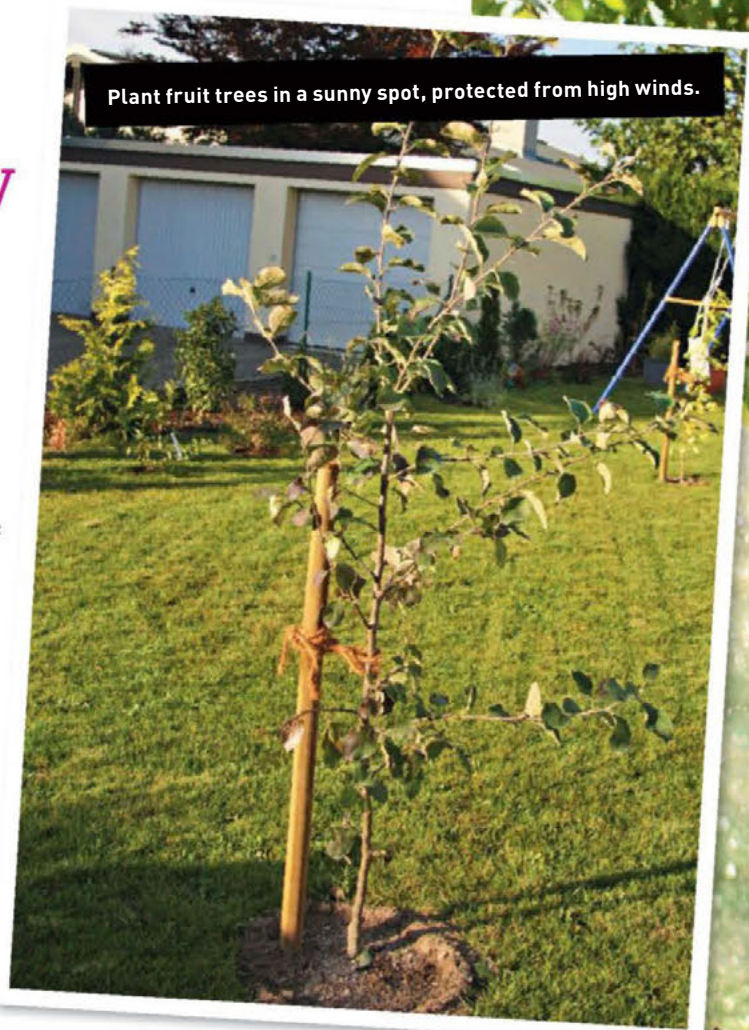
❖ **SOIL** should be rich in organic matter, so dig in compost or aged manure before planting.

❖ **WATER** newly planted trees twice a week for three months until they are established. Once established, water the trees deeply at least once a week, especially while the fruit is ripening.

Potted fruit trees need more frequent watering, sometimes daily, depending on the weather.

❖ **MULCH** with lucerne hay or straw, leaving at least a hand's span clear around the trunk. ➤

Plant fruit trees in a sunny spot, protected from high winds.



## WHAT TO GROW



Apple

Ballerina columnar apple trees with their pole-like growth are suitable for narrow spaces or pots, and there are five varieties.

Trixzie miniature apple trees reach a height and width of 1.5m and can be grown in pots or beds. Choose from 'Pink Lady' or 'Gala'.

Most apples need a pollinator, so if you don't have a neighbouring tree, you'll need two trees to get fruit. If you pick different varieties, check they flower at the same time.

The 'Nectazee' Nectarine and the 'Pixzee' Peach are available in the Trixzie series of miniature fruiting trees from Fleming's Nurseries, ([flemings.com.au](http://flemings.com.au)).

Both self-pollinate and grow to 1.5m high and wide. They like cool to warm temperate climates.

The Trixzie black cherry 'Cherree' is also self-pollinating and reaches 2.5m high and wide. It prefers a cool-winter climate.



Stone fruit



Pear

Lovers of pears will appreciate the self-pollinating Trixzie pear 'Pyvert'. It reaches a height and width of 1.5m, making it perfect for small backyards or pots.

Multi-grafted pear trees suit small gardens, and one tree contains 2-3 different cultivars that will cross-pollinate. They grow to about 4m high and wide.

Pear trees thrive in a cool temperate climate.





Fruit tree roots spread to the perimeter of the branches, so water and feed there.



## GROW TIP

Keep traditional-sized apple, pear, nectarine and peach trees at a lower height by pruning them in summer.

Mango trees have been downsized, but you are still rewarded with regular-sized juicy fruit. Growing to 3-4m high, they're perfect for courtyards or small gardens.

Try dwarf 'Irwin', a mid-season variety with red and purple skin, or dwarf 'Sensation', which is an old variety with very juicy fruit. Both are self-pollinating.

Visit [daleysfruit.com.au](http://daleysfruit.com.au) to check them out.



Mango

Mulberry



Eat juicy black mulberries straight from a tree or turn them into jams or pies.

You can buy dwarf mulberries, and pruning after fruiting will keep the tree under 3m high.

Harvest the fruit when ripe, as it doesn't ripen further after it has been picked.

**TIP** Make sure you protect the harvest from birds, which love the fruit as much as we do.

The dark green-skinned 'Wurtz' avocado is ideal for small gardens.

Feed young trees three times a year with cow manure, compost or a fertiliser with added nitrogen. Feed mature trees yearly in spring with a flower and fruit fertiliser.

Plant 'Wurtz' in a large pot at least the size of a wine barrel and stand the pot on feet so drainage isn't impeded. Water regularly, especially in hot weather.



Avocado



Feed newly planted citrus trees when the roots are established, then in spring, summer and autumn, alternating cow manure with a complete citrus food



Citrus trees, especially dwarf, grow well in pots.

## DWARF CITRUS

There are some great dwarf citrus tree options for balconies and tiny backyards.

🍋 **LEMON** choices include cold-tolerant 'Lots A' Lemons'. Great for pots, it grows to 1.5m high and is slightly sweeter and not as acidic as other lemons.

Dwarf 'Eureka' produces very acidic fruit year-round, with the heaviest crop in winter. It can reach 3m high, so grow it in garden beds.

🍋 **'LEMONADE'** looks like a lemon but can be eaten straight off the tree. The dwarf 'Lemonade' has an upright habit and is suited to garden beds.

🍋 **TAHITIAN LIME** is a medium-growing tree suited to small backyards. The dwarf variety reaches up to 2m and the fruit is picked late autumn to midwinter.

🍊 **ORANGE** trees bear an abundance of fruit. Choose from dwarf 'Washington Navel' and the seedless dwarf 'Valencia'.

🍊 **MANDARIN** choices include the dwarf 'Emperor', with puffy skin that peels easily, and the heavy-cropping 'Imperial' or 'Engell's Seedless', which is suitable for growing in a large tub.



Got a fabulous fruit tree?

Post a pic on Instagram and tag it #HMGrowIt

1 2 3

**REPOT A LEMON TREE** After replanting, feed potted citrus with Dynamic Lifter every three months, or you can use a controlled-release fertiliser. Water regularly and mulch the top of the pot with lucerne hay or sugar cane.



### 1 Prepare the tree

Choose a pot that has a diameter of at least 400mm, increasing the size of the pot as the tree grows, when necessary. Give the tree a thorough watering an hour or two before removing it from its container.



### 2 Pot the plant

Half fill the pot with a premium potting mix for citrus and fruit. Remove the citrus gently from its bag or pot, then position it in the pot, making sure the soil level remains the same in the new pot.



### 3 Add potting mix

Backfill around the tree with potting mix, packing it down firmly. Water the plant, then top up the mix if it sinks. Remove any fruit on newly planted trees so energy is directed into producing new growth.



## CHERYL'S PICKS



Osmocote Professional Fruit & Citrus Potting Mix, \$11 for 25L. [scottsaustralia.com.au](http://scottsaustralia.com.au)



Lots A' Lemons 200mm Citrus Tree, about \$26, from Bunnings.

Espalier pear, apple and citrus trees on a wall.

## Make the most of walls

Turn fences and walls into edible screens by attaching wire mesh to the surface for the plants to attach themselves to. Drape with passionfruit, grapes or kiwifruit. You can also use walls to espalier a fruit tree. This is a term that is used to describe the process of training a tree or a shrub to grow against a flat surface like a wall.



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Deep Rose



Electric Orange



Lilac (D)



Hot Coral



Orange (D)



Royal Magenta



Red



White

10 colours all ready to make an impact



# GUIDE TO PRUNING

Not sure how and when to prune plants? Here's how to give them the best haircut

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

**T**here are many reasons why plants need pruning. It can extend the life of fast-growing plants. When trimmed every year, wattles and most grevilleas keep a nice shape and live longer.

Pruning also removes spent flowers and dead or damaged branches, and can promote more flowering growth.

It eliminates diseased growth and older plants that aren't performing well can benefit from judicious pruning.

Thinning branches in shrubs and trees allows greater light penetration.

## WHEN TO PRUNE

Plants that flower on the previous year's wood are pruned straight after flowering to allow enough time to produce new flowering wood for the next year. Simply cut off the flowers when they have finished.

Plants that flower on the current season's growth and produce blooms in late summer and autumn are pruned during late winter or early spring.

Evergreen shrubs are pruned in late winter just before new growth appears and in spring, summer and autumn, if needed, while deciduous shrubs grown for foliage can be pruned midwinter.

Roses are pruned midwinter, but in heavy frost areas prune in late winter.



### Mulch for free

A garden shredder enables you to put prunings to good use, and depending on the size, you can use it to shred branches and green material.

You can add the shreds to your compost heap or use them as mulch.

When putting fresh shreds on garden beds, add a layer of manure or Dynamic Lifter underneath. Or, let the shreds age in a heap before using them as mulch. ➤



## GROW TIP

Prune to control the growth of plants to suit the size of your outdoor area, as well as to shape hedges.

Give pruning a go as, like feeding and weeding, it's one of the best gardening jobs you can do



# WAYS TO PRUNE

## TRIMMING

Also called tip pruning, trimming is the removal of a few centimetres of growth to encourage bushiness.

✦ **WHEN** In spring, summer or autumn when plants are actively growing, and all year in tropical areas.

✦ **HOW** Simply trim the plant all over.

✦ **WHICH** Plants include azalea, box, acacia, choisya, osmanthus, daisy, crowea, daphne, diosma, fuchsia, bay, hebe, lilly pilli, grevillea, murraya, pelargonium, heliotrope, lavender, plumbago, rosemary and viburnum.

✦ **TOOLS** Shears are mainly used for tip pruning, with wavy-blade shears being suitable for general-purpose hedge trimming, as they cut through thicker stems without ripping. You can also use a power trimmer.



## SHAPING

This controls the size of the plant, directs and promotes new growth, as well as removing wayward branches.

You can direct new growth by making the cut at a node, the bump on the stem from which new shoots develop. When a plant is pruned back to just above a node, new shoots and leaves will grow from that point.

✦ **WHEN** In late winter, spring or after spring flowering.

✦ **HOW** Cut the plant back all over to shape it or remove offending branches.

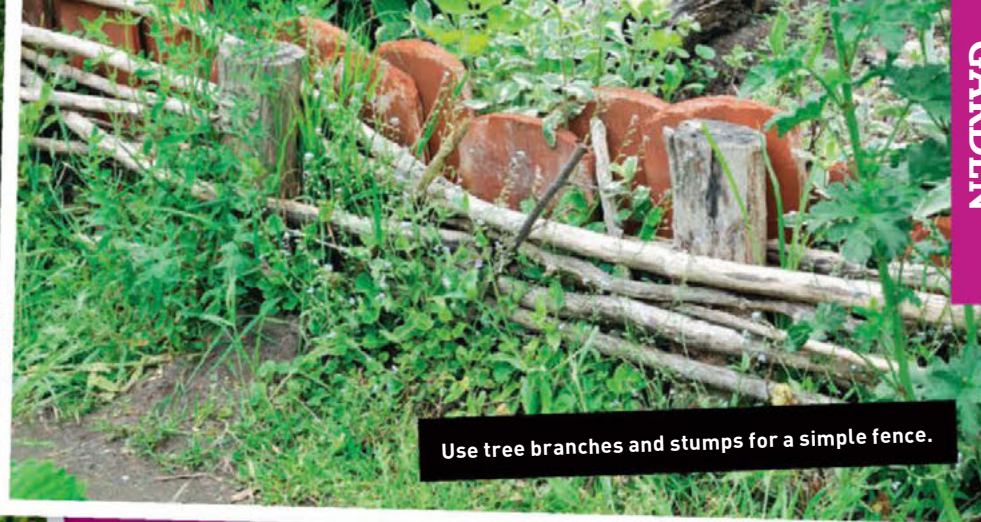
✦ **WHICH** Plants include citrus, acalypha, allamanda, brugmansia, buddleia, callistemon, escallonia, flowering quince, fuchsia, gardenia, gordonia, heliotrope, lilly pilli, lilac, hibiscus, nandina and oleander.

✦ **TOOLS** Secateurs are used for this method of pruning.





Turn large prunings into rustic-looking plant supports.



Use tree branches and stumps for a simple fence.



### Get creative

Garden recycling is usually associated with compost, fallen leaves and shredings, but there are lots of ways you can use your pruned branches.

✦ **MAKE** rustic teepees using medium-sized long branches. Position them firmly in the ground and tie them together.

Use them in the kitchen garden and position chicken wire around the teepee as a support for sweet peas, runner beans or peas.

Or you can grow low-growing climbing roses over the teepees to add height and architectural interest to garden beds.

✦ **WEAVE** thin, pliable branches through more sturdy uprights to make an interesting garden edging.

✦ **CONSTRUCT** a simple post and rail fence from tree branches as a garden divider or for a fence around a kitchen garden.

✦ **ATTACH** bromeliads to large branch prunings and insert them in the ground for a striking display. ➤

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## CUT CANES

Certain shrubs regularly produce new growth or canes from the base.

It is beneficial to remove these every 3-5 years to make way for new growth, which will be vigorous and produce more flowers.

✚ **WHEN** In late winter or early spring as new growth appears. The removal of old canes in spring-flowering plants can be left until after flowering.

✚ **HOW** Cut out the old canes at ground level. Old canes are woody and grey or brown, while new canes appear lighter in colour, usually green or reddish.

✚ **WHICH** Plants include may (*Spiraea*), abelia, mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*), snowball bush (*Viburnum opulus* 'Sterile'), nandina and weigela.

✚ **TOOLS** Use secateurs, long-handled loppers or a pruning saw for thick stems.

## DESIGN TIP

Create a uniform look by trimming trees and shrubs in stages, standing back to check the shape as you go.

## Hydrangea haircut

If you don't prune hydrangeas, they will still continue to flower, but the display will diminish in size over the years. If you prune them too heavily, the plant won't flower the next year. Remove stems bearing dead heads and any weak or unwanted shoots in autumn or winter. Cut back to the first or second pair of fat buds and new shoots will grow from the buds.





PICTURE THINKSTOCK

Avoid using pruning sealer on trees, as cuts heal better if left unsealed

## PRUNE LARGE BRANCHES

Most ornamental trees do not need to be pruned after they have been initially shaped.

But it is sometimes necessary to thin out the branches to let more light into the house or garden, and to remove any broken branches.

You can remove the branch right back to the trunk or to a larger branch.

**1 MAKE** the first cut on the underside of the branch about 250mm from the

trunk or branch that it is attached to. Cut about halfway through to prevent the branch from tearing.

**2 CUT** the top of the branch about 50mm in front of the first cut, cutting until the branch falls and leaves a stub.

**3 REMOVE** the stub completely. If cutting back to the trunk, make the cut just outside the branch collar, where the branch joins the trunk. ●

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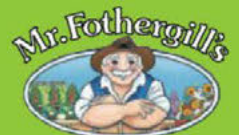


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# What's on this August

## Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

<b>Saturday 1 August</b> Storage solutions	<b>Sunday 16 August</b> Indoor project
<b>Sunday 2 August</b> Storage solutions	<b>Saturday 22 August</b> Fencing
<b>Saturday 8 August</b> Storage solutions	<b>Sunday 23 August</b> Fencing
<b>Sunday 9 August</b> Storage solutions	<b>Saturday 29 August</b> Home organisation
<b>Saturday 15 August</b> Indoor project	<b>Sunday 30 August</b> Home organisation

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au). If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au) for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

## Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

<b>Saturday 1 August</b> Dress-ups	<b>Sunday 16 August</b> Craft
<b>Sunday 2 August</b> Fun with paint	<b>Saturday 22 August</b> Woodwork
<b>Saturday 8 August</b> Nature	<b>Sunday 23 August</b> Wall art
<b>Sunday 9 August</b> Decorator	<b>Saturday 29 August</b> Make a gift for Dad
<b>Saturday 15 August</b> Art class	<b>Sunday 30 August</b> Make a gift for Dad

For more information on other instore events or to book, call (03) 8831 9777 or visit [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)



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## 5

EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR  
SANDTOOL  
PROTECTOR

Fill a bucket three-quarters full with builder's sand and pour in 1L of motor oil. Plunge tools into the sand a few times to clean and lubricate them. To prevent rust, store the tools in the sand.

OBJECT  
STEADIER

Gluing small items like broken china can be hard with just two hands. Stick the biggest part of the item in a container of sand to hold it steady. Apply glue to both pieces, stick together and allow to dry.

TYRE  
TRACTION

A bag of sand kept in the boot of your car is good insurance in icy conditions against getting stuck or spinning out from a parking space. Spread the sand around your tyres to create traction.

VASE  
CLEANER

To get rid of dirty water marks and gunk stuck to the inside of vases, put a bit of sand and warm soapy water in the vase and swish gently. The sand will clean off the residue you can't reach.

OIL  
SOAKER

To clean up an oil leak on the garage floor, sprinkle sand over the area where it has spilled and allow the granules to soak up the oil. When it has all been absorbed, simply sweep up the mess.





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